

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee on 24th February 2014

Present: Chris Paterson SDNPA , Richard Partridge (Lewes Seniors), Mike Turner LTC, Ruth O'Keeffe LTC , Ashley Price LTC and Chamber of Commerce, Kirsten Firth TTL , Roger Murray LTC. Susan Murray LTC , Chair of this meeting Lucy Ruddy (Nevill Residents)

Apologies: Merlin Milner Ian Eiloart Steve Brigden Neil Merchant

Administration: Richard and Kirsten stressed the importance of circulating minutes to the group. The minutes of the previous meeting had not gone out. The chair accepted responsibility for not making sure this had happened. To ensure this did not happen again Chris suggested that we have a member of the Town Hall staff for say, a day a week, to keep us all informed of the minutes and, the agenda. They will, thus be in a position to keep everyone on track. He explained how at Petersfield a T. H . employee did this work for the groups and researched documentary evidence in support., and put on-line links to helpful documents.

ACTION Susan to ask for a member of the T H staff or a new person who would be able to set up a web-site, book rooms, assist with research etc. This could be paid for with money provided by SDNP. **Chris** to email 'job descriptions' from Petersfield.

Ruth called for more discussions on-line and Susan explained that Ian had indeed set up a Google Group, though it has been little used so far.

Constitution: All agreed to adopt the Terms of Reference from P'field as well as the Rules for Meetings supplied by Neil Merchant. Chris said that he would send a 'Declaration of Interest' form from Petersfield.

Getting people involved: Drawing on his experiences in Petersfield, and other communities developing a Neighbourhood Plan, Chris explained how important it was to get the message out to the public about what we are doing and the significant effect it will have over the coming 20 years. He explained that for plans to succeed, it is better to have only a limited number of topics to reduce scope for

disagreement.

Mike and several others suggested that common opinion in the town was more concerned with the North St. Development than with the N.Plan. Ruth suggested that we begin bargaining with neighbouring authorities over housing allocations.

Topic groups:

Kirsten explained the work done by her group – exploring: climate change, sustainability, flooding and the complex issues affecting flooding, heat-waves and droughts. They considered such measures as land use, railways, roads, buildings, sustainable food and energy production to enhance the quality of life in the future.

Ashley told us about the Business Group. Negligible response to his on-line fact finding exercise, even to his tweets.

ACTION Next meeting all topic group leaders MUST arrive armed with arguments for their topic and a list of potential ideas to be included. For help Chris suggested that the sub-groups look at the LDC Core Strategy and the Thame Neighbourhood Plan – just look at them and the headings and sub-headings as a guide to how to proceed, as well as looking at how the sustainability group had drawn up its excellent paper. He said, “be ambitious - we can consider later whether or not it is possible to turn these into policies within our NP - and consider how buildings can influence human behaviour.

In two or three meetings' time Chris would get a couple of planners in just to listen in and give their comments.

Chris said that the 'Rooks' and all Lewesians should be interested in the NP as we will be writing the master plan for the town. If we don't develop an NP developers will then be free to come in and walk all over us. Do we want to draw up the plan for Lewes or do we want the developers to do it for us?

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 7th April at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Lewes Town Hall.