

NOTES OF MEETING

<i>Meeting of / between:</i>	LEWES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP (LNPSG)	
<i>Venue:</i>	Council Chamber, Town Hall	
<i>Date:</i>	7:00pm Wednesday 31 st August 2016	
<i>Attending:</i>	Cllr S Murray	Lewes Town Council
	Cllr R O’Keeffe	Lewes Town Council
	Steve Brigden	Town Clerk (TC)
	Lucy Howard	S. Downs Nat Park (SDNPA) Planning Policy Manager
	Cllr S Catlin	Clevedown Residents
	Cllr J Baah	Lewes Town Council (observing)
	Dr C Tingle	Lewes & Ouse Valley economics (LOVe)
	Robert Cheesman	Friends of Lewes
	Liz Thomas	South Downs Society
	Susan Thompson	Cycle Lewes/Egrets Way group
	Jennifer Chibnall	Phoenix Rising
	Debbie Twitchen	Landport Residents Association
	Tony Kalume	Diversity Lewes
	Sarah Neels	Nevill Residents Association
	Paul Allen	Kingston Rd & Cranedown Residents Association
	Anthony Dicks	Lewes Conservation Area Advisory Group
	John Stockdale	formerly representing Lewes Community Land Trust
	Ian Linton	Houndean Residents Association
	Rita Ellis	Residents Against Inappropriate Development (RAID)
	Lin Hayworth?	Western Road Residents Association
	Cllr W Elliott	Lewes Town Council
	Belinda Chapman	Cliffe Residents Association
	Cllr A Rowell	representing Lewes Travel Man
	Cllr I Makepeace	representing Lewes Living Wage
<i>Apologies:</i>	Neville Harrison	S. Downs. Nat. Park. (SDNPA) Committee Member
	Dr Micheal Turner	Pells residents
	Richard Partridge	Lewes Seniors Forum
	Vic Ient	‘Transport volunteer’
	Cllr M Milner	Lewes Town Council
	Cllr M Chartier	Lewes Town Council
	Cllr R Murray	Lewes Town Council
NOTES:		
1.	Cllr Murray welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefly reviewed the position on the development of a draft plan; outlining background work ongoing since the Group last met.	
2.	<i>Introductions</i> – all present introduced themselves.	
3.	Minutes of the last meeting of the steering group (16 th November 2015) were presented. Cllr O’Keeffe queried the status of a working meeting held with FERIA Urbanism and SDNPA recently, and suggestions that a small ‘executive’ group would be the most practical way of dealing with the final formal stages of development, consultation <i>etc.</i> Cllr Murray and TC explained the background to the consultant’s agreed work programme and other aspects. The background to the recruitment of the consultant was rehearsed, and there followed a discussion on the nature of the material garnered from public workshops and consultations and the work of the topic groups. Lucy Howard explained the integration of Neighbourhood Plans with the overarching SDNPA park-wide Local Plan, and presented the context in which housing targets were considered.	
4.	<i>Budget update</i> – TC presented an update to the project budget	
5.	<i>Update on progress:</i> The last milestone in the information-gathering phase, following the sequence of two- and three-day engagement events, had been a two-day public event in November 2015 to publicize emerging policy themes, followed by an associated online questionnaire open until January	

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	<p>2016, although this had been supplemented in March 2016 by two weekend workshop programmes for young people facilitated by Brighton University under the auspices of their <i>Agenda 21 – Digital Citizenship</i> initiative. The Council’s consultants had processed the resulting feedback, translating general comments into acceptable planning policy statements and relating these to the topical themes. A “rough draft” had been circulated of a pre-submission draft Plan for the LNPSG to assess; refine; fill gaps, and then promote to Council for the formal Regulation 14 consultation.</p> <p>The most significant outstanding work was related to the identification of sites for potential housing development. The Plan was required to identify sites capable of accommodating 220 new homes over the plan period. A public advertisement had called for site owners to come forward and public workshops in 2015 had resulted in marked maps identifying 31 sites ‘of interest’, which must then be assessed for actual potential. Ownership had been traced wherever possible and the SDNPA asked for a first-level opinion as to the viability of each site. So far only two sites had passed such scrutiny and obtaining answers from other owners was proving extremely difficult, although there is a possibility that the site of the former St Anne’s school may yield more. Discussions with ESCC on this matter would take place in earnest as their Lead member for Resources would shortly be asked to approve exploration, with local partners, of options for the site.</p>
6.	<p>Some of those attending alluded to a perception of “public anger” at the present status of the Plan and the apparent hiatus since November 2015 and lack of communication during that time. There ensued a rather intemperate discussion and some argument over attribution of blame for lack of progress and perceived erosion of the group’s influence on the Plan. Proposals were made to remove Cllr Susan Murray as Chairman of the LNPSG and install Mr Ian Linton – attending his first meeting as the accredited representative of Houndean Residents’ Association. Others suggested that Mr Linton, a retired Project Manager, might be prevailed-upon to assist the Group and apply his expertise; perhaps from the position of Vice-Chairman. TC advised that the legal status of the group was an advisory body of the Town Council, and that a non-Councillor should not serve as Chairman. This status and the chairmanship aspect was hotly contested by some individuals, and Mr Linton was eventually voted-in as Interim Chairman. Cllr Murray was thanked for all her hard work on the Plan to date.</p>
7.	<p><i>Next steps:</i> There followed a brief discussion on formation of a small executive group to progress decisions on the Plan. Various members offered opinions, and no decision was made. The discussion moved to general administrative matters such as distribution of documents; frequency of meetings and reporting. Mr Linton promised he would issue a weekly progress update. There was a brief discussion on resources and the present gaps in the rough draft plan. This led back to a rehearsal of the discussion on available information on potential housing sites. Nevill residents were concerned about a local landowner who had made overtures to their association (and others) regarding development of downland near Hawkenbury Way. This was generally known, but there was, as yet, no detail and no pre-application material had been submitted to the planning authority.</p>
8.	<p>Date of the next meeting would be discussed and circulated.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>The Meeting ended at 9.30pm</i></p>