

Minutes of the Stonehouse NDP working group meeting Thursday 14th May 2015

1. Present: John Jaynes (JJ), Claire Sheridan (CS) (*Chair*), Chris Cowcher (CC) (*Minutes*), Terry Webb (TW), Nick Chase (NC), Vicky Redding (VR)
2. Apologies: Gary Powell, Carol Kambites, Rob Waite, Alastair Shankland, Ollie King
3. Declarations of interest: None
4. Approval of the minutes from the working group meeting on 2nd April 2015, and update on any actions:
 - VR confirmed that we have 4 days of GRCC time 'in the bank' – it was agreed that this time should be split between the development of housing and employment policies. The main activity would be desk top research/number crunching on housing numbers. **ACTION:** VR to email GRCC (copying in CS, JJ and Gill) to progress this activity.
 - NC raised the point about proposed changes to rules around affordable housing/exception sites and new cross subsidy opportunities. It means that land values could rise in specific areas with private developers able to be involved with any scheme, where as previously it had only been affordable housing landlords. Need to consider as part of the developing housing policy – advice to be provided by GRCC.
 - JJ has carried out substantial research contributing to the housing policy (paper shared post meeting). The paper looked at all current applications in the cluster, and also those which have appealed.
 - VR confirmed that from the Pear Croft fields society, that the permission levels have been raised to 75% of residents have to agree to development – up from 66% previously. This means that this site is now even more less likely to be supported for development in future.
 - **ACTION:** Call for sites activity needs to progress with advertisement in the local press – AS to be asked for previous notices to be sent. CS to liaise with AS.
 - **ACTION CARRIED FORWARD:** Clarification of the remaining budget
 - **ACTION:** VR to request meeting with Peter Carr from the LEP – suggested date Thursday 16th June at 3.30pm. NC/JJ and potentially CC to be present at this meeting.
 - VR emailed GWT as a follow up to the action requesting support for mapping – **ACTION:** VR/CC to progress this activity.
 - **ACTION CARRIED FORWARD:** CK to get information and evidence about use of existing community facilities from Gill.
 - Discussion held around the recruitment of a new administrator – **ACTION:** AS to upload his workplan to the Google drive for information
5. Budget Breakdown:
 - No expenditure has been recorded in the period between meetings
 - There is a need to allocated remaining budget, part of the project planning exercise. **ACTION:** VR to liaise with Gill
6. Meeting with Eastington NDP group:
 - CS/AS met with Eastington following action at the last Stonehouse NDP meeting
 - The Eastington proposal is to support 10 – 15 houses a decade, which is not in line with the emerging plan from SDC

- There is no reference to the needs base for the surrounding parishes, which is required as part of the NDP – the Eastington plan outright fails to meet the needs of the Stonehouse cluster
 - If Westington progresses, then the housing numbers on this site will mean that the Eastington plan is superseded.
 - **ACTION:** CS to formally respond to their plan stating the fact that it does not appear to address the needs of the Stonehouse cluster. Letter to be recorded as part of the consultation, to demonstrate our engagement.
7. Green spaces:
- CS to liaise with Simon Pickering and others to arrange the walk about, and also to coordinate the taking of photographs of the key green spaces for inclusion in the final document.
8. Survey results:
- VR circulated a paper with all the results of the survey
 - **ACTION:** Feedback piece to be included in the next Stonehouse News – including a picture of the £100 prize draw winner
 - **ACTION:** AS to provide the copy deadlines for the Stonehouse News again.
9. Any other business:
- JJ showcase the work done by a group of students from UWE who visited on Stonehouse on Wednesday 22nd April, to carry out some design exercises in relation to the Ship Inn site and the adjoining land. The concept drawings include the petrol station, housing, a swimming pool and other public access areas – a useful resource for future consultations to show 'what could be possible'.
 - Recruitment of a consultant to support the developing policy activities – **ACTION:** NC to contact a professional colleague, Stuart Todd to sound him out about supporting the plan. He has been involved with multiple other groups, and could support the role in AS absence.
 - Interviews being held for the administrator role, whose role will also include the Regen committee minutes – **ACTION:** CK to update via email on the recruitment processes, and share the signed off job spec being used
 - Apologies for future meetings:
 - i. CS/JJ – Thursday 28th May
 - ii. NC/VR – Thursday 11th June
 - iii. CC – Thursday 25th June
10. Workshop session: Work plan – NC shared post meeting.
11. Dates of the next meeting:
- Thursday 28th May, 6.30pm at the Town Hall
 - Thursday 11th June, 6.30pm at the Town Hall
 - Thursday 25th June, 6.30pm at the Town Hall