

**Swanley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Meeting at the Town Council Offices
Thursday 20th June 2019 at 18:30**

MINUTES

Present: Chris Hudson (CH) Chris Prestedge (CP), Roger Ford (RF), Bob Wallis (BW), Alan Dean, (AD) Glynnis Harrington (GH), Paul Darrington (PD)

In attendance: Toni Roast (Swanley Town Council) Lorraine Hart (Planning Consultant)

1. Apologies for Absence

Robert Brickell, Mark Johnson

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 23rd May 2019

Approved as correct.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Business survey – copies were available for Steering Group members to take away. 4/5 responses so far

Town crier article – had been drafted, approved by the Chair and sent to Barbara Playfoot of STC

Other action items were covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

5. Reports from the working group leaders

Housing in the absence of Mark Fittock, LH responded that a meeting had taken place on 17th June and attendance had been low, but a plan was in place for site visits (not meetings with owners) of all sites that had been assessed by Swanley because the owners had put the sites forward to Sevenoaks Council so they may still pursue their development. The Working group were doing this in order for the NP policies to be developed in ways that would mitigate impacts of their development IF they came forward, acknowledging that neither Sevenoaks DC nor Swanley Town Council could prevent applications from being submitted.

CP stated his objection to this strategy as he felt that as Sevenoaks had not included the sites in the latest version of their Local Plan the NP Steering group should leave it at that.

Transport – CP reported that the group had been working on the SERCO report and a summary more accessible version had been created that they could work with to develop a statement on what approach should be taken to NP policy for consideration by a future working group meeting later in June.

Working & Employment AD reported that he had been talking to businesses about the survey and was aware that Sevenoaks wanted to look at improving Meeting Point (their work hub) to accommodate the needs of start up businesses. It was agreed that he would arrange a meeting with Sevenoaks Economic Development Department to discuss their plans and any Neighbourhood Plan implications

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Conservation & Heritage LH reported that though a volunteer with a background in Museums had come forward to lead this group she had met with the Chair and had withdrawn her offer. LH had therefore initially arranged to meet with the Swanley Village residents to talk about their conservation area and heritage issues.

LH felt that the lack of interest in this topic was a perception held by some that Swanley did not have a lot of heritage assets.

Group members felt that the history of the Town was richer than that and the works of Williams Mitchell the sculptor had created works in Swanley and that older features such as the Totem pole were being tracked down to preserve them. BW also mentioned the old watering hole which was still used by the farmer. LH **agreed** to research the conservation and heritage issues further via the Portable Antiquities scheme and Kent Historic Environment records

Community Health, Education & Leisure – A meeting had taken place on 10th June, but minutes were not yet available. AD reported that they had discussed the Whiteoaks leisure centre development being developed by Sevenoaks and the frustration that people felt that they were not being listened to and that there was a lack of clarity about what was not included as a result of the consultations. He reported that Anna Johnson has a list of the things that young people wanted from the session held by Sevenoaks at the Orchards Academy about their proposals. CH **agreed** to request this list. The group also discussed the Community Engagement Strategy (see item 9 below) and were happy with it but needed to think about how to target its use on specific issues (e.g. green spaces, play facilities, biodiversity).

6. Update from U&I Inquiry

RB, CP, AD, EL and CH had attended the inquiry and whilst concerned about the outcome felt that they had made a number of good points about the U&I presentation of the scheme and its model, the health provision and its impact on the infrastructure of Swanley that had been inaccurate which they felt had been acknowledged by the Inspector. A decision was expected in 4/5 weeks. All those who had attended were congratulated for their input.

7. To consider the Brief for the first chapter of the Neighbourhood Plan

LH introduced the purpose of the paper that had been circulated to provide guidance to Steering Group members to write a Portrait of Swanley that would act as a key introduction to the Neighbourhood Plan describing Swanley as a place to live and work - its people, its built character and form, its facilities, infrastructure and history as well as its current issues.

AD stated that he wanted to write and submit his contributions in sections and wanted to emphasise that there was too much treatment of buildings and land as assets for money when they were about people who needed to use them. LH encouraged members to just get something on paper and she would edit it and that it was not necessary to cover all the themes currently being covered by working Groups.

TR gave advice that she would not set a deadline too far into the future to bring this together and it was **agreed** to send LH any contributions by the **end of July 2019**.

8. Project Plan for the NP

The project Plan timeline had been circulated and this was noted and agreed as a target timetable for work on the NP going forward.

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9. To consider the Draft Community Engagement Strategy for the Neighbourhood Plan

The draft strategy had been circulated and Steering Group members **agreed** it as the basis for moving forward to involve more people.

It was **agreed** that LH would talk to Steve Nash about the updating of the NP pages of the STC web site so that minutes and so on were publicly available

It was suggested and **agreed** that an event on 28th September be pencilled in to seek further input from local people on the content of the NP by Working group theme. It was **agreed** that CH approach Orchard Academy as a potential venue.

10. Any Other Business and Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 24th July 2019 at 6.30pm. Venue to be confirmed.