

## **Business & Economy Focus Group**

Minutes

Meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Present: Bill Ferguson, Chris Bulbeck, Graham Hicks, Geoff Talbot.

Also present Robert Hayes, Chairman, SPNP Steering Group.

1. GT reported that the FG last met face to face on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013. That, however, did not reflect the extent of activity involving FG members in preparing material related to SPNP. Contact had been maintained during the intervening period through conversations at other SPNP meetings or by email. Draft minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated for comment on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2013 and would now be issued.

### **Development potential of part of the Recreation Ground**

2. The main purpose of this meeting was to obtain a steer in relation to potential development of employment related facilities on part of the Recreation Ground adjacent to Park Road. Concern had been raised by members of the Recreation Sub-committee as to the extent of possible land take and its resulting impact on the existing facilities.
3. GT explained that he had requested a schematic layout to be produced which allowed for a business centre of approximately 6,000sq ft, for associated car parking and potential provision of approximately 5 live/work units and associated car parking. The schematic layout assumed orientation of the football pitches in a NW/SE direction and on this basis would result in the loss of half of one pitch.
4. The FG had before it the schematic layout; discussion took place as to the extent of potential development, possible layout options and the merits of continuing to pursue inclusion of a policy within the SPNP which would allow such potential development in the future.
5. The FG concluded the following:
  - i) exclude the provision of the live/work units;
  - ii) exclude car parking not related to any business centre proposal;
  - iii) a number of location options were felt to be available including provision of the business centre on the site of the previously proposed live/work units;
  - iv) examine possible alternative site locations within the Recreation Ground;
  - v) continue to support the inclusion of a policy enabling such development; and
  - vi) to provide a presentation to the next Steering Group meeting (04/02/2014).
6. Bill Ferguson's offer to examine alternation options and to report to the Steering Group was accepted.

### **Projects**

7. The FG was circulated with a draft list of possible projects for inclusion, as an annex, within the SPNP. A number of projects related to business and economy were highlighted. Members were asked to provide comments to Sue Talbot before the list is discussed with the Steering Group.