

SOUTHBOURNE HOUSING FOCUS GROUP

Meeting Tuesday 4th June 2013 held at Southbourne Club

Present:

Sue Talbot (ST), Keith Parham (KP), Jim Jennings (JJ), Robin Rolfe (RR), Oona Hickson
Cllr Bruce Finch (BF), Laura Boyns (LB) (Minutes),

Apologies:

Rowena Tyler, Henrik Magnusson, Roy Seabrook, Robert Hayes

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies. Welcomed Sylvia to the Group.
2. Minutes overview from last HFG meeting.
3. **Questionnaire Discussion** The group had a general discussion about the questionnaire and about the changes that were made to it. There was concern that the Housing Need section had been removed completely. It was jointly felt that this information was vital as the Housing Need Data provided by the District Council was too broad brushed. It did not provide any detailed and definitive guidance on Need for Southbourne alone. In addition to this, Housing Need questions were present in other Neighbourhood Plan (NP) area questionnaires. It is important to be able to specify local Housing Needs in order to negotiate with developers and secure an appropriate proportion of affordable housing in the overall CDC housing allocations. If we are to prepare a plan with the residents of Southbourne, it should show clearly what benefits there will be to the local community. This point is to be discussed at the next Steering Group. BF advised that if these questions have to be left out then we could approach the District Council to assess the need more effectively. BF reported that £7,000 has been granted to each parish for NPs, of which £4000 has been retained by CDC for NP work but the remaining £3,000 is available for Southbourne Parish to apply for to fund surveys etc. ST noted that all meeting attendees were in agreement that Housing Need is essential input into the questionnaire.

Question 4 of the questionnaire was then discussed. BF suggested that instead of the word '*support*' in this question it be revised to '*benefit*'

Other points that were brought up in this area of discussion were the fact that KP was concerned about the north/south divide of the village by the railway line. It was felt that houses may be separated from facilities and that this needed to be considered.

The number of properties to be built was also brought up. It was clarified that the figure of 350 houses was not proposed by the Parish but by the District Council.

Question 5 KP wanted to make a suggestion for consideration at this point of the process for a new road to connect the A259 to the A27 somewhere along the west side of Southbourne. He and RS had given this a lot of thought and believe that such a road could solve most of the traffic problems including those caused by the level crossing because the new road could bridge the railway line. He suggested

that it could be implemented in stages, thereby phasing costs, but if it wasn't included in this NP it would never happen. It was felt that at present, although a good suggestion for looking at the bigger picture, it may raise expectations about an unrealistically costly project. BF suggested a transport survey be carried out. The other issue raised was if there was less congestion and better access into the village it could actually encourage even more development in the future.

Additional note ST advised that Sylvia had drafted maps of the area including the SHLAA sites and Sylvia explained them. It was agreed that this would be a very effective way of showing the residents what housing sites had been put forward to CDC. These are going to be included in the questionnaire but it must be made clear that the SHLAA sites are subject to planning consent.

4. The leaflet has been produced to explain SNDP. It is hoped that volunteers would man a stall at the Summer Fair held on 15th June at Southbourne Infant School. It was agreed that more publicity is needed and this would be an effective way of promoting the plan. Sylvia was also going to look into getting a larger scale area map. This along with questionnaires and some exhibition material similar to that produced by the Birdham Plan might be sufficient (copies were looked at). Volunteers to run the stall are yet to be confirmed. Any volunteers must be briefed on how to explain how the Plan is being prepared, how people are needed to contribute whilst also putting the point across that this plan is of benefit to the community.

It was suggested that leaflets etc. were put up in the Southbourne Club entrance, Library, Church and Bourne school.

5. Priorities and Deadlines were discussed. The draft Housing part of the Questionnaire had been sent to AiRS on time (2nd June) and the final version must be agreed by the Steering Group at its meeting on 10th June at latest for the Parish Council to consider on 11th June. AiRS will be responsible for distribution and analysis. Neil Homer (rCOH) will prepare the 'State of the Parish' report. There was concern as it seems that the Questionnaire will only be out for 1 week? This is to be discussed at the Steering Group meeting. An overview of the timescales took place and the Plan will be completed in theory by 14th Feb 2014.
6. The link to the Website draft has been circulated and Alice would like any comments and feedback. So far there have been some positive comments.
7. AOB – BF volunteered to be 1st reserve for the stall at the Summer Fair from 2pm until 3pm. ST confirmed that the next Steering Group meetings would be held on 10th June and the 8th July.
8. The next Housing Focus Group meeting will be held on the 25th June, at 7PM in Southbourne Club.