

Minutes of Southbourne Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group 5th May 2015

Attendees: Alice Smith, Alyson Russell, Bill Ferguson, Bruce Finch, Chris Bulbeck, Geoff Talbot, Jack Moss, Jonathan Brown, John Southgate, Marjorie Bulbeck, Mark Everson, Mike Downer, Morley Lane, Peter Hicks, Robert Hayes, Roy Seabrook, Sue Talbot.

Apologies: Graham Hicks, Jim Jennings, Oona Hickson, Sarah Richardson.

1. Welcome & apologies submitted. The following members have resigned from both the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan team – Jacky Grant, Philip MacDougall, Lisa Leader, Stephanie Cecil, and Robin Rolfe. Jim Jennings has resigned from the Parish Council but remains a member of the Neighbourhood Plan tea. Alyson Russell and Morley Lane, as new Parish Councillors, are new members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
2. Minutes of last meeting: minutes of April meeting approved.
3. CDC Chichester Local Plan status: CDC still waiting for Examiner’s report. She has advised that she will not require the two day hearing that was scheduled in, so that is taken as a positive sign. The developers have all argued for higher housing numbers in the CDC local plan. If the Examiner was to approve it, the local plan would not go to referendum, but would just be adopted.
4. Neighbourhood Plan Examination Status: The Examiner has produced an initial report which has gone to CDC and a limited number of Steering Group members. Until it is published, it cannot be discussed by those that have seen it. We hope this report will be put on the CDC website very soon, then we can discuss and publicise it, and unless major changes are required to the neighbourhood plan, the process of getting the referendum in place can be started. **ACTION: ROBERT HAYES** to chase CDC to get the Examiner’s report onto the CDC website.
5. Referendum Status: At this rate the referendum may well be mid July 2015. Once the Examiner’s report is published, even if not changes are required, we will need rCoH to amend the draft plan, we are not sure how long this will take **ACTION: ROBERT HAYES** to discuss with rCoH what their lead time is expected to be so that we can plan effectively. (Robert has emailed Neil Homer asking him to prepare the final Plan to include all the Examiner’s recommendations) Then we have the time taken to print the hard copies of the documents, then the final plan documents have to be on deposit in various local areas prior to the referendum. We need to push forward to ensure the referendum does not slip to August which is not a great time, with holidays etc people are less likely to vote. The possibility of a public meeting was discussed, although this would be ideal as many residents were unaware of the plan when we had public meetings in 2013, it is not clear if there would be time to arrange such a meeting. Sue has confirmed that the right people to advise appropriate procedure prior to the referendum are the CDC Electoral Officers – we do need to know what we can and cannot do, so we ensure we are 100% within the rules in everything we do as a team. **ACTION: BILL FERGUSON** (Bill has sent a very full e mail to CDC asking for advice on what we can and cannot do Pre-Referendum) to contact the CDC Electoral Officers to confirm what these rules are, then to circulate via Alice
6. Communications: We may well have a very short lead time to prepare publicity information, as the cut-off dates for various publications are often several weeks. **ACTION: BILL FERGUSON** to prepare a list of the cut-off dates and circulate via Alice. We would like a précis of the plan, to include sites and policies, to be on a leaflet to be circulated prior to the referendum. Although this could possibly be available at the Sussex Fair, we would like to ensure that this is circulated to all residents prior to referendum. This could be via volunteers delivery drop, by Royal Mail (assume £600/700), by inclusion with the Emsworth Directory – all possibilities to be considered. The Parish Council have agreed they will fund this leaflet drop, but the mechanism of delivery is still to be determined. **ACTION: BILL FERGUSON** to present options to the Parish Council meeting next week. Overall budget is expected to be about £1800.
7. Drainage Issues:
 - i) **Ems Flow** are looking at floods and surface water issues. Balfour Beatty consultant has advised that the drainage is as good as it can be. Between Compton and Westbourne they are looking for flood meadows – areas that can be flooded when needed. The surface water problems in Southbourne are all to do with ditches therefore are not planning issues.
 - ii) **Drainage ditches:** the Parish can exercise powers under the Drainage Act to ensure that landowners keep the ditches clear. The Parish Council can take the landowners to task if they are not doing what is needed. Steve Carvell is the Environment Director at CDC. CDC has strong enforcement powers to ensure landowners clear the ditches. What is the trigger point to set enforcement in place? **ACTION: BRUCE FINCH** to chase Steve Carvell to confirm what this is. Added as agenda item for June meeting. Peter Hicks manages a team of people who inspect footpaths; they inspect the litter and ditches as they do this. This information goes to WSCC but it could go to CDC also as they can then use that info re the blocked ditches, **ACTION: BRUCE FINCH** to find out who the right contact is and let Peter Hicks know.

- iii) **Street Drains:** the Highways Agency man in a van checks all the drains to see how blocked they are; when they are half full he arranges to get that drain pumped.
 - iv) **Complain to OFWAT:** The sewerage problems in Southbourne are the matter of a complaint that Roy Seabrook has made to OFWAT. The EA say that the responsibility for these issues does not lie with them but with Westminster. Roy has checked the guidance for the EA which does say that they are responsible for these issues. Roy has spoken to Andrew Tyrie about the inadequate supervision of EA, and perhaps an increase in EA manpower would resolve this issue, but his answer was No. He has however agreed to meet with Roy. Roy is pressurising OFWAT – they say their role is economic only but their terms of reference say that they have greater responsibility than that. The complaint to OFWAT covers three main areas:
 - (a) Methodology – Southern Water have averaged over 7 years which means they are assuming a very low amount of surface water each year, this does not take into account dry years and wet years, so they are not building in the capacity for rainfall in wet years.
 - (b) The Environment Agency does not have records of large quantities of storm discharges, which demonstrates that the supervision of Southern Water is inadequate
 - (c) We would like immediate notification of storm discharges into the harbour (due to the high level of water sports in the area, people are sailing etc into the water unaware that there have been discharges into the harbour by Southern Water) rather than the notification process we have at present whereby SW advise third parties who eventually advise us, several weeks later.
8. Current planning applications/appeals/consultations:
- i) **Breach Avenue:** plan for 34 houses in the orchard at the end of Breach Ave was refused but has gone to appeal. Those who have already sent in letters re the original application can send in representations to the Inspector who is assessing the appeal. Guidance on this has been provided by Sue Talbot and has been circulated. This site is part of the proposed Green Ring. **ACTION: ALL** please send in representations as individuals. Please summarise your points as the Inspector will have to read all these and your original representations. If possible see what the developer says and refer to that but their statement may go up late, which may not allow you time to get your representation in..... The Parish Council is seeking to list this as a community asset **ACTION: PARISH COUNCIL** this needs to be done quickly!! 2 June is the end date for sending in statements.
 - ii) **Hamcroft:** 21 dwellings alongside Nutbourne site. This shows drainage into the Hambrook which is clearly a terrible idea as there are flooding issues there already. **ACTION: ALL** please write in as individuals to object.
 - iii) **Alfrey Close/Garsons Road:** Hallam consultation ended on 25/4/15. We await the next step, which will be a planning application.
 - iv) **Nutbourne:** Mr Jupp is working for the landowners (Mr & Mrs Bailey) for this site that is expected to take 50 dwellings behind the old post office. This site is in the neighbourhood plan. Mr Jupp has provided 2 draft plans which have been shared with the District Planning Officer. **ACTION: SUE TALBOT** to circulate the plans received. They do not however define the boundaries, or show the whole development area.
9. Timetable and any deliverables required immediately: none
10. AOB:
- i) We have been offered a table at the Sussex Fair, this is an opportunity to present the plan itself, leaflets etc, although we must remember the neighbourhood plan team will not be allowed to canvass at that time. We will need a call for volunteers **ACTION: ALICE SMITH** who will be organised by Bill Ferguson. We will need to run this past the Electoral Officers to ensure we are doing everything right. **ACTION: BILL FERGUSON.**
11. Future SG meetings future dates are all first Tuesday in each month - 2 June, 7 July, 4 August, 1 September, 6 October, 3 November, 1st December 2015 - at the Church Centre at St John's Church, Stein Road, Southbourne PO20 8LB at 7.30pm.