

Steering Group Meeting 5.30pm, 14th March 2018, The Village Institute.

Present: John Pilcher (Chair) Sheena Carmichael, Teresa Killeen, Liz Young, Robin Tait, Stephen Burley, Daniel Studholme, Ann Cook, Anthony Lloyd, David Goodale, Peter Sewell

Apologies: John Poole, Peter Reeves, Frankie Nowne.

Minutes of last meeting: signed as an accurate note of the proceedings.

1. Analysis of Consultation Responses:

a. Response Rates. TK reported that there was overall satisfaction with the responses to Regulation 14. We had 315 email replies and 55 emails. Some 20 surveys were completed by couples.

The priorities for the community are clearly traffic, parking and speed, footpaths and cycle ways.

With the exception of H2 Policy, which had 65% satisfaction rate, the other 18 policies had satisfaction levels of between 84-94%.

b. Call for sites. There is strong advice from statutory responses to exclude Singehurst from the Plan on the basis that it has already gone to appeal and been turned down and the allocation objectives for the Parish have already been met. The Steering Group accepted this objection and agreed to remove the recommendation.

Action: John Pilcher to inform Mr & Mrs Stevens.

The committee has been approached by other interested parties to include sites which missed the first round but the advice from Feria is that we cannot include new sites into the document unless we are prepared to repeat the public consultation process. These applicants will be advised to make their own representation to RDC and request a pre-planning consultation.

Action: Daniel Studholme to speak to Chris Stanfield, Core Group will contact other applicants.

c. Statutory Bodies. In general the comment was that the statements of intent in the policies were not strong enough and rewording was required. The SEA lacked sufficient detail, for instance on biodiversity.

AL mentioned SNCI site at Bewl, ancient woodland but no significant SSI in the Parish.

Action: TK sent details of comments from Rother District Council (RDC), East Sussex County Council (ESCC) and High Weald AONB to Nick Chisolm-Batten and asked him to consider a revision of the document and remove Singehurst site from the assessment. If we meet resistance to changes to the SEA, TK can discuss this with her contact in Locality.

Core Group to check AONB report and prepare a paragraph about biodiversity with TL for inclusion in Plan.

2. AECOM reviews:

It was suggested by AECOM that references should be embedded in the text rather than in an appendix. RDC has supported this in specific instances but Feria has advised against it routinely. Also they confirmed passive language should be replaced by more definite statements. Feria has agreed to look at this.

Some inaccuracies were mentioned in text and references to policy which the Core group will have to consider. AECOM has set a deadline (19th March) for comment on their report.

3. Green Spaces:

Two sites in Stonegate have been controversial – The old Cricket Ground and The Allotment site.

Action: JP & AL will review these.

The inclusion of School playing fields have been challenged by ESCC. Feria has provided contrary evidence.

Action: Core group to consult RDC but are minded to retain these in the Plan.

4. Meeting with East Sussex Highways to report on their survey of the plans for the village centre. This will take place 15th March and the Steering Group is invited.

5. Feria:

TK has contacted Richard Eastham to enquire what help he can offer within the contract to revise the plan.

Plans and Boundary Maps will need revision.

Action: JP to discuss maps with Feria and refer to Land Registry information.

6. Next Steps:

Core Group will review all comments community and statutory, consider necessary alterations to the plan, contact interested parties, press AECOM for revision of the SEA and arrange a meeting with RDC.

7. AOB:

SC reported on Planning for Right Homes and Right Places. The government's consultation document on measures to boost housing supply in England. RDC has also published a strategic housing review. Ticehurst Rural features high in fuel poverty assessment and it is considered to be because of the number of old hard to heat properties and lower salary levels in rural areas.

Action: SC will circulate the Executive Summary of the Strategic Housing Review.

Parish Council to be requested to press for local priority need in new housing developments, especially Banky Field.

Date of Next Meeting 5.30pm 23rd April 2018. The Village Institute