

## **Meeting of the North Horsham Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Steering Group Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 7pm.**

Councillors elected to the Steering Group – Cllr N Butler, Cllr Miss A Smith, Cllr J Smithurst.

**Purpose of the meeting** – to initiate plans to launch the North Horsham Parish Neighbourhood Plan focusing on open green space and housing design, as agreed by the Parish Council, and to encourage community participation.

### **In attendance:**

Steering Group - Cllr Miss A Smith, Cllr J Smithurst.

Cllr David Searle – previously involved in Horsham Blueprint

Mr James Smith – ideas for an online platform as one method for community engagement.

Pauline Whitehead – Clerk to the Council – note-taker.

### **Background.**

- The Parish Council had agreed an embryonic project plan, budget plan and terms and conditions to use for the North Horsham Parish NP.
- A meeting had been held with Horsham Blueprint – notes attached.
- Information on open green spaces and housing design in North Horsham was already available.
- The last day for the consultation for designation of the Parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Development Area by Horsham District Council (HDC) had been 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017. There had been one representation from Gladman Developments. Advice from HDC was to include Gladman Developments in the six week Regulation 14 consultation process. Mr Kwan would submit a report to the next appropriate HDC meeting where the designated status would be confirmed.
- Publicity so far has included a board at the Annual Parish Meeting, an article in Horsham Pages (North) and an information board that is situated in the entrance hall to the Roffey Millennium Hall.

### **The Meeting**

A NP has to be in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and the Horsham District Planning Framework (HDPF). Cllr David Searle observed that in his experience a large percentage of the public are not aware of NPs and that much more needed to be done to promote them.

Cllr Searle described how Horsham Blueprint had approached the Horsham Town NP. An exhibition in an empty shop unit in Swan Walk had been heavily attended and produced

some valuable results. He advised that using open questions eg “What do you like about North Horsham?” and “How would you improve North Horsham?” would allow free expression. Survey Monkey had been useful for other groups undertaking NPs and a multi faceted approach to community engagement was recommended.

James Smith explained how social media and in particular the collaborative platform that he was championing could be used to engage with the community and provide valuable feedback and opinion. This could include voting on particular issues. He reiterated the need for a multi faceted approach to reaching residents to make the process as inclusive as possible. He made the point that on-line engagement was useful for many residents as it is their only opportunity to get involved with the community and the democratic process.

Cllr Searle described how other NP groups had used ‘a wishing tree’ where comments could be tied, an ‘old fashioned’ bicycle with a post it board and other novel ways of attracting people and encouraging them to offer their thoughts. It was suggested that having something along these lines could be taken around local events such as sports club and school fetes to promote the NP and to get people involved. There should be focus on going out into the community to engage and listen to people’s views.

**(Action)** Cllr Miss Alicia Smith agreed to extend the community engagement part of the project plan to include a programme of events at which there could be a presence.

### **Opportunity for training**

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017 – 10.30am – 3.30pm Main Conference Room, HDC Office, Parkside-  
‘Exploring heritage in Neighbourhood Plans’.

### **Next meeting**

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 7pm Roffey Millennium Hall.

### **Conclusion**

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.