

## HENLEY-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2014 AT 9.30am IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, HENLEY-ON-THAMES.

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**Present:** Councillor M Akehurst (Mayor ex officio)  
Councillor D Hinke (Chair)  
Councillor W Hamilton  
Councillor D Nimmo Smith  
Councillor K George (Harpsden)  
Councillor M Plews (Harpsden)

**Officer:** Mr M Kennedy (Town Clerk)  
Ms P Price-Davies (Committee Administrator)

**Also Present:** 9 Members of the public  
1 Member of the press

**38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Gawrysiak and Councillor Mrs J Wood.

**39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**40. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

Mr K Arlett, Elizabeth Road

Mr Arlett spoke of his concern over Developers coming forward and presenting and promoting their own sites outside the realms of the Neighbourhood Plan due to the delay in the conclusion of the Plan because of the additional sites coming forward so late. He felt that this stalling coupled with the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMAA) was leaving Henley vulnerable to the allocation of additional housing. He called for the decisions on site allocations and the final Plan to be concluded as soon as possible to prevent any new developments coming forward.

Mr J Brookes,

Mr Brookes requested further information regarding the forthcoming Public Focus Group session to assess the new additional sites within the Neighbourhood Plan. The Chair advised him that this item would be discussed more fully under the relevant item number 5(ii) on the agenda.

**41. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Neighbourhood Planning Governance Committee Meeting held on the **15 October 2014** were received, approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, save to the following extent:

Minute No. 31. Public Participation session – Councillor I Reissman

To delete the wording *'by the presenter at the meeting'*, from the second sentence in this paragraph. It was **RESOLVED**

**that the minutes be amended to reflect this deletion.**

#### 42. **PROGRESS REPORT**

##### **(i) Verbal update on the Housing Working Group held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014**

The Chair reported to the Committee on the plausibility of the referendum being scheduled in May 2015 when other elections were being held to maximise the opportunity for residents to engage with and vote on the Plan. It was explained that District Council didn't have the capacity to run potentially four elections simultaneously and the consensus was that May would be too early for the referendum anyway. Members accepted that scheduling the referendum for June was a more realistic goal. The Chair agreed that he would refer this issue to Nexus Planning and take their guidance on the ideal date and timeframe and report back to the Committee.

The Chair gave a summary report on the last Housing Working Group session which was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, confirming that the presentation had been uploaded onto the website. He highlighted the key concerns as:

- The Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) at the Parkside site.
- The deliverability of the Gillotts site being unclear.
- The general impact on traffic density.
- The high density of housing at the Highlands Farm site.
- The spatial distribution throughout Henley being more balanced if the Fairmile Site had a housing allocation.
- The deliverability of the College site being unclear.

Members were in agreement that the main aim of the next Housing Working Group session was to finalise the allocation so that the Plan could reach its conclusion. There was concern aired over Developers holding exhibitions within the town as this was causing confusion over the Plan with residents. It was suggested that the Chair should write an open letter to the Henley Standard to address these misconceptions.

##### **(ii) Discussion on the forthcoming Public Focus Group**

The Chair explained the reasoning behind Nexus Planning's suggestion of a Public Focus Group session which was scheduled for Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November. He confirmed that fifty residents that had previously completed a questionnaire at the Draft Consultation phase had been selected with 50% in favour of the Plan and 50% against it to ensure a balanced approach would be adopted when assessing all the relevant information. In order for this session to be deemed a representative sample, it was felt that a minimum of 25 invitees would have to attend. This initiative was a structured approach to test out the adoption of the three new additional housing sites within the Plan. The response from this selected group of residents would then be fed back to the Housing Working Group session to be held in the first week in December. It was felt that these responses would then help the Working Group to reach a consensus so that the final Plan could be drawn up.

#### 43. **BUDGET REPORT**

Members had before them a copy of the Income and Expenditure Budget to **12 November 2014** which was attached to the agenda. The report gave details of the total income to date, including a grant from SODC of **£15,000** and a grant payment from Locality UK of **£7,000** (100% payment of total award received). A full breakdown of the expenditure was attached to the agenda. It was **RESOLVED**

**that the financial report to 12 November 2014 be received and noted.**

44. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The following date was proposed for the next meeting:

**Wednesday 10 December 2014 at 9 am.**

The meeting closed at 10am.

*ppd*

*Chairman*