

**Notes of Meeting of
Lindfield Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (LNPSG)
held at the Millennium Centre, Scaynes Hill, on 21 March 2013 at 8.00pm.**

Present:

Members of LNPSG - Alan Gomme (Chairman), Andy Spooner (Vice-Chairman) (AS), Will Blunden (WB), Ray Jones (RJ), Ron Plass (RP), John Dumbleton (JD)

LPC Deputy Clerk Iain McLean (IM)

Councillor Val Upton (Lindfield Parish Council)

2 representatives from Action in Rural Sussex (AiRS)

12 members of the public (including representatives from the Lindfield Preservation Society)

3 representatives of landowners and developers

1. Chairman's welcome

Alan Gomme opened the meeting at 8pm, and welcomed all those present. He invited members of the public to speak on agenda items following discussion of each item.

2. Apologies: Simon Hodgson

3. Declarations of Interest: None.

4. Notes of Meeting held on 21 February 2013

The Notes of the Meeting held on 21 February 2013 were noted and approved.

5. Update on meeting with AiRS

It was reported that AG and AS had met with AiRS on 5th March 2013, and that regular contact was being maintained. The need for proper reporting protocols was referred to.

6. To consider the estimate from AiRS regarding the Housing Survey.

Faustino Bayo from AiRS gave a presentation on what the Housing Survey involved. It was designed to address the affordable housing need, and the nature and type of the housing that would be required in the future. A survey/questionnaire would be designed to find out information on income streams, and local housing need. This could be cross referenced against the Housing Register maintained by Mid Sussex District Council. It would be a very important part of the evidence base for any affordable housing policy in the Neighbourhood Plan, particularly if different criteria are proposed than MSDC. It would be needed to justify rural exception sites. It will need to get down to a level of information not provided in the District wide Housing survey. It was noted however, that if the document is agreed with MSDC, it would pay 50% of AiRS's fee.

A question was asked about how wide the survey will go in terms of the here and now or the future. It will be an evolving process, and an analysis of where the Parishes will be in the future. Also, will the study address existing or proposed recent housing developments? No - it will be narrower and provide only part of the answer. It was noted that the demographic issue, in terms of the ageing population, was a key factor in order to be able to plan ahead for the future.

ACTION: AS agreed to provide the draft questions for the survey to members of the Housing Focus Group before the planned meeting with MSDC, and to all members thereafter.

ACTION: It was resolved by the Steering Group to agree the estimate and to proceed with the Survey. The appropriate recommendations on the expenditure would be made to each Parish Council accordingly.

7. (i) To receive updates on the work of the Focus Groups (FGs)

Community – AG introduced, and invited Cllr Val Upton to update the meeting. Val confirmed that a particular emphasis had been on the education and health side of things. The FG had been to see a number of schools and had questionnaires from the two GPs surgeries serving the Parishes. The local Churches and businesses were also being approached. AS referred to involving the community and had had particular contact with the “Inn on the Green” public house to see what they can provide. He stated that it was essential to ask local services what their views were. AiRS also re-iterated the need to additionally talk to the Local Education Authority at MSDC, as it was noted that the increased demand for school places needs to be properly assessed.

Housing – JD reported that the FG had had a tour around the Parishes looking at various sites, particularly the SCHLAA sites previously identified by MSDC. The SG was having a meeting with MSDC next week to go through the various questions that they wish to raise with Claire Tester and Emma Shuttleworth (affordable housing issues). These had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. It was noted that the re-branded SCHLAA document (now Housing Supply document) has been seen by certain members, but it is not easy to locate on the MSDC website. AiRS agreed to provide a copy for all the Housing FG members, as they had ease of access.

Landscaping – RJ said that this Group had been accessing and looking at a vast array of existing documents on e.g. landscapes and bio-diversity. They were now talking to the farming community, and have devised a form of questionnaire. He noted that they needed to distinguish between farmers and land owners (i.e. land not being farmed). The FG would be meeting further in about two weeks’ time in order to pull together all the information required by AiRS.

Transport & Traffic – RP said that the FG was concentrating on information gathering in order to identify potential problems with public transport and infrastructure. The Group was using contact with MSDC and WSCC in order to access various traffic surveys and statistics.

N.B. AG wished to record his thanks to the United Reformed Church for the use of their meeting rooms for a number of the FG meetings.

7. (ii) The request from the Housing FG that the Steering Group submit a number of general questions on planning and affordable housing to MSDC on behalf of the FG was agreed (see also above).

8. To note the timetable for the pop-in sessions in April

The dates for the above sessions were duly noted. These are - Saturday 20th April (from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.) at the Millennium Centre, Scaynes Hill, and Tuesday 23rd April (4.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.) in the King Edward Hall Library. AG re-iterated that the idea was to get some early feedback on the work of the various FGs and how they are progressing.

9. To note the date of 15th May 2013 for the presentation of the State of the Parishes report

This would be presented by AiRs on the agreed date.

10. Arrangements for the Neighbourhood Planning workshops

AiRS outlined the purpose of the work-shops. It would last about 3 hours, and had proved to be an invaluable part of the process. It would start to talk about the types of policy to go into the Plan. The intention is to give AiRS a clear steer on the outcomes. It would involve all the FGs, representatives of

the Parish Councils, the District Council, the County Council, and other key stakeholders, but not developers or landowners (as their input should have been separately assessed). The invitations will need to be issues very shortly.

ACTION: The FGs will need to get the information to Faustino Bayo by the end of the week commencing 8th April.

11. Community involvement issues

AG reminded the meeting of the events coming up – such as Lindfield Village day. The idea is to be all-inclusive and demonstrate participation in the process from as wide a range of people as possible. These could be very useful and productive “talking shops”.

It was asked by a “developer” how developers are being involved in the process. It was noted that they were being invited to talk to the Housing FG.

12. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Dates of next meeting

The next meeting is on 24 April 2013 (in the KEH) at 8.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.07 pm.

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