

**Notes of Meeting of
Lindfield Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
held at the King Edward Hall, Lindfield on 21 February 2013 at 8.00pm.**

Present:

Alan Gomme (Chairman), Andy Spooner (Vice-Chairman) (AS), Will Blunden (WB),
Ray Jones (RJ), Ron Plass (RP), John Dumbleton (JD),
LRPC Clerk Di Morgan (DM)
LPC Deputy Clerk Iain McLean (IM)
9 members of the public

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 24 January 2013

The Notes of the Meeting held on 24 January 2013 were noted and approved.

5. Update on work of Focus Groups (FGs)

4 initial Focus Group meetings had been held, 2 on 7 February and 2 on 20 February. Reports were given as follows:

Landscape Group

RJ reported that the main activity was doing website searches to identify what information already existed. Boundaries of the parishes were clarified and the Ashdown Forest Buffer Zone of 7km was found to cover the Northern part of the Rural Parish. Some of the reports found were very large and needed careful reading. In light of this, a further meeting had not been arranged, but the FG members were keeping in touch by e-mail. AG noted that an impressive amount of information had been found already and it would form an important part of the evidence base for the NP.

Housing Group

JD reported on behalf of this FG. The initial meeting had been held and had discussed self-build initiatives and how to encourage these. It was found that many residents did not know the whole area and so a tour was planned for Saturday 23 February at 1pm to assist with this.

Traffic Group and Community Group

AG reported that the initial meetings of these groups were used to help participants get to know each other. A further meeting of each was planned in the next couple of weeks.

AG stated that it was hoped that the FG would be able to finish their tasks by the end of May, but that updates would be available in time for the Parish Meetings in April and community workshops - date to be announced.

AG also thanked those who had volunteered for their work so far and emphasised that it was not too late for others to come forward.

6. The call for sites in the parishes – Andy Spooner.

AS reported that residents had indicated a preference for small scale housing development in both parishes in the NP questionnaire. Posters had been put up requesting those who owned or knew of suitable land to come forward so that available sites could be identified. A member of the Steering Group would then get in touch and discuss potential ideas.

A member of the public indicated that it was not likely that the whole future development of the parishes could be achieved in this way as developers preferred larger sites but this was countered by another who said that there had been a number of small developments in Lindfield already. AG said that it was important that the SG try all possibilities, even if unsuccessful, so that this could be noted in the evidence base.

7. Effects of announcement on 14 February of the revocation of the South East Plan (Regional Strategy)

It was suggested by AG that there may be increased pressure on the SG to identify sites, but he felt it important that the job was done properly. JD said that it was also important to work with MSDC to ensure that the SG was able to respond when required. It was agreed that a meeting with Claire Tester would be helpful on this point and the LRPC Clerk was asked to arrange this.

Action point: DM

8. Update from Action in rural Sussex (AirS)

AG reported that he had met with Faustina Bayo (FB) and Tom Warder (TW) from AirS and expressed concern regarding the proposed Community Workshops. FB had indicated that these should be held in March to feed into the State of the Parish Report, but AG felt that this was too soon for the FGs to have done all the work required to update residents. Lead in time was required to advertise these events, particularly in Lindfield Life which was the main publication for informing residents.

AG stated that he was arranging a meeting with AirS to ensure everything was on track and that any other events required were identified well ahead. Members of FGs could also contact FB through their group leaders if they had any concerns or enquiries, and were requested to copy in to SG members.

It was agreed that 2 events should be held – one in KEH on an evening in w/c 22 April and one on Saturday 27 April at SHMVC, to give residents alternative times and venues. The Clerks were asked to check availability and liaise with AG.

Action point: DM and IM

9. Community involvement and promotion events

Arrangements are being made for display stands to be included in the Lindfield Arts Festival and Village Day. These would be staffed by volunteers.

AS reported that it was more difficult to identify suitable events in Scaynes Hill.

RP suggested involving Heads of Schools in FGs and Val Upton would include this approach in the Community FG. There was also a suggestion from a member of the public that sports groups be involved and AG responded that all clubs and societies included in the Lindfield diary and in Lindfield and Scaynes Hill would be contacted.

10. Costs of Neighbourhood Planning preparation

AG identified 2 areas of expenditure for the SG to consider:

- a) Sussex Wildlife Trust has produced a Sussex Biodiversity Report which contains a wealth of useful information. It was suggested that a donation of £50 should be made to the Trust. The SG unanimously agreed that the donation was appropriate and AG was requested to check the usual cost to commercial organisations before payment was made to ensure that it was sufficient.
- b) Margaret Pilkington has written a book on the Ouse Valley which covered a lot of local information. AG proposed that the book should be purchased at a cost of £25 so that it could be used for the NP and later be held in the Village Archives. This was unanimously agreed by the SG and AG planned to ask the author to sign the copy purchased.

11. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Dates of next meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as 21 March 2013 (SHMVC) at 8.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Iain McLean

Iain McLean
Deputy Parish Clerk
Lindfield PC

484115

Di Morgan

Di Morgan
Parish Clerk
Lindfield RPC

831499