

Minutes of Meeting
Southam Neighbourhood Plan Working Party

Wednesday 25 April 2018. 7.30pm - 9pm.

The Grange Hall – Southam

Minutes taken by Sharon Lythe

Attendees: Mike Brooks, Helen Caves, Laurence Caves, Gary Cripps, Joan Cripps, Linda Doyle, Graham Foster, Sharon Lythe, James Merrix, Pamela Palmer, Suzie Stone, Jonathan Swain, Simon Wilson

Apologies: Jeff Smith, Gary Smith

1. Review Minutes of Last Meeting

- Minutes approved

2. Updates

Greenspaces

- GF had spoken to Neil Pearce from Avon Planning Service (APS) who is scheduled to do site surveys on 25 April on the 20 Local Green Spaces (LGSs) identified by the Working Party. It should take a couple of days to then complete the assessment sheets.
- MB stated that he had been in touch with the Neighbourhood Plan contact at Stratford District Council (SDC). He had sent our vision statements and green spaces documentation as they wanted an update on progress. The feedback was that we were currently doing the correct things.
- Simon Wilson asked for clarification on what qualifies for protection as a Local Green Space. MB confirmed that the APS assessment would be confirming which space may meet requirements.

Site Allocation Plan

- APS advised that it is vital that any site assessments for development are done by an independent agent and that they provide this service. Locality also offer the service directly.

- GF showed map with all potential housing development sites. The existing SDC ‘Call for Sites’ was discussed. MB suggested a personal preferred site but other possible areas were discussed that might not be on GF map.
- HC emphasized that we should do an analysis of pros and cons of each site which would go forward for an independent assessment.

Business Survey

- MB shared a provisional business survey. This had been based on other completed surveys with standard questions kept and then others tailored to the needs of our own. Subgroup comprising MB, HC, GC formed at previous meeting to go through this to be joined by JS.
- GF confirmed that we need a firm quote from SDC on the cost of processing and analyzing the surveys.

3. Way Forward – Plan Structure

- It was proposed that this would be divided into separate chapters to make it quicker and easier to access and edit. GS would have overall control as editor. GF talked through a possible plan structure.
- GF suggested that it would be good to complete as soon as possible some early drafting on things such as an introduction, the history of Southam and our Vision Statements.
- MB stated that SDC said we need to look at the economy of the town and the Business Survey is the start of this process. SDC also said we needed to consider issues such as Energy and Education.
- JS raised a discussion on what was meant by ‘energy’. Are we supposed to consider future energy consumption or demand in the town?
- GF asked that Energy be put as an Agenda item for next meeting.
- MB suggested that we also need to refer in the Plan to SDC’s recent Supplementary Planning Document on Development Guidance which would strengthen the Plan.

4. May Day Fete

- Monday 7 May. It was agreed that we would use this event to consult with people in the town on our green spaces map and gather comments and feedback. Discussion took place on how to collate this.

5. Infrastructure News

- Item from MB discussing the usage of forthcoming S106 money from local housing developers. If the Neighbourhood Plan already existed, it would carry weight in directing these funds but in its absence, it was down to council subgroups meeting with SDC and Warwickshire County Council (WCC). However if the proceedings of the Southam NPWP show a positive inclination in advance of the finalised plan, this would need to be taken into account in considering projects to fund.
- Graham Palmer (WCC Infrastructure Delivery Manager) has requested to attend the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party meeting.
- GF requested Infrastructure be added as an item to agenda (with Energy) for next meeting.

AOB

Autumn Open Day. It was agreed that we would look to hold another public open day on Saturday 29 September 2018. The event is to be publicised in the Council Newsletter.

Meeting Ended 9.15 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 23 May 2018. 7.30pm in the Grange Hall Foyer.