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Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Wednesday 17th June 2020 at 7pm
Zoom Virtual Meeting

Minutes

There were present: Cllr Tony Allen, Emma Healy, Barnaby Millburn, Joyce Moseley, Charlotte Slater, Keith Greenberg (in the Chair), Phillippa Welby (secretary)

1. Apologies – None received.
2. Minutes from the previous meeting - The minutes from the previous meeting 20th May were agreed.
3. Matters arising from the minutes – JM asked Cllr Tony Goldson if he had a copy of the previous Thoroughfare/Market Place connectivity study but he did not. He is supportive of the new feasibility study. The Land Registry account is set up and ready to use. **JM and KG to send through details of land that they would like to check.**
 - Long term car park**
 - The Old Station Road site also shows a link to the Norwich Road in the NE corner.**
 - Hammonds sites**
 - Kerridge's site**
 - ESC garages**
4. Objectives / Policy development – progress update from task leaders
KG said that this was an opportunity for group members to add ideas and discuss what they had already included under their objectives. In the context of a timetable, KG said that the aim was to sign off draft policies by the October HNPSG, send them off to Navigus for comment, and to meet with Chris Bowden in late October / early November to review progress.
The group began with objective one - 'To make Halesworth a 'Green Town' and enhance health and wellbeing by protecting, improving and expanding our green spaces.' This is being led by CS with assistance from KG. **TA would like to add 'protection of the skyline from the Millennium Green towards the town'** to this objective. The group agreed. The group talked about designating land around the Millennium Green in order to protect it. **CS will check with ESC about the process of designation.** JM has spoken to a representative of the MG trust who has stated that the MG is already protected by way of the agreement they have with the landowner and the nature of the charity. KG maintains that designating it will add a further layer of protection and possibly support any attempt made to protect the land between the MG and Saxons Way **JM to send CS MG correspondence.** MG have a proposal for a cycle track from Hilton Road through Birds Foot to join up with the Sustrans cycle track. Is the NP allowed to include this level of detail? BM raised the issue of the McCarthy and Stone option on the land off Saxons Way that the group is interested in designating, however no formal planning permission has been received for this yet. JM said

that the NP needs to make clear that it is not about stopping development but encouraging appropriate levels of development in suitable sites.

PW to find which garages in Halesworth are owned by ESC.

TA raised the possibility of increasing allotment space in Halesworth. PW confirmed that there is a waiting list currently but that this did fluctuate with the seasons.

KG or JM will send the three suggested circular walks suggested for Halesworth to CS. Walking routes are included in objective 7 (TA). It would be useful for TA and CS to liaise as there is an overlap with CS's objective. The manager of the Angel Hotel may know as to whether there are maps of existing walks. TA to check.

The next objective that was discussed was number four – 'To provide a wider range of better-quality community, sport / leisure and education facilities for all ages'. KG said that funding for a new youth centre should come from CIL money held by ESC and the Town Council. He also considered that SCC has a responsibility for funding, given it was the County that decimated youth provision funding in the first place. JM confirmed that there would be space on the Campus project for a youth centre. EH had been involved in a group looking a provision for young people in Halesworth that had unfortunately had to stop due to C19 but will restart after the regulations are relaxed. KG posed the question that if sport and leisure provision are in the Local Plan do they need to be included in the NP. EH thought that post C19 physical well-being may be seen as a high priority and that it should be included at this first stage.

TA will share the discussion paper he is writing for the Town Council on community spaces in the town.

PW to contact Cllr Reece for a copy of her play spaces report. KG & CS to discuss sharing the elements of this objective out.

BM and KG will discuss how they will approach the Seckford Trust. BM will initiate this by reviewing the figures generated by the education research.

KG will progress action points on his initial proposal on:

- **HTC's review on play spaces. Possible overlap with CS's objective 1.**
- **Contacting HCL regarding the play area adjacent to the Dairy Hill tennis court and its housing plans on its overspill car park, and whether the NP should designate the site accordingly. Also, to check if SSC has a covenant on the overall site. Should this be in objective 4? To discuss on 1st July.**
- **There is also reference in objective 4 to the Dairy Farm site, U5s provision, the proposed community centre, the Rifle Hall and a proposal for the NPSG to discuss issues with HTC. Again, there is a need to discuss whether this should be included objective 4 and Dairy Farm is already covered in the Local Plan. To discuss on 1st July.**

Objective number six – 'To promote a local transport infrastructure that enables residents, workers and tourists to move about easily' was discussed briefly and it was agreed to include disabled access to the town. JM will talk to a contact at Reability in Halesworth for guidance as to pinch points in the town that make access problematic.

TA to talk to the admin of the Halesworth Community Voice Facebook page in order to allow the NP group to post possible survey questions on there regarding accessibility problems.

The group then agreed to meet again in two weeks in order to discuss the rest of the objectives. Task leaders need to have formulated specific actions for discussion at the meeting. In the meantime, group members should continue to circulate their ideas on the objectives they have been assigned. The group is still aiming to have draft policies ready by October.

5. Thoroughfare Connectivity Project Feasibility Study – The funding has been agreed by the Finance Committee and will now be considered by the main Council.

6. AECOM Site Assessment & Options package – This was an interesting meeting. However, AECOM appeared to be very keen to encourage a new formal call for sites for potential development. KG and JM did not want to go down that particular road due to the level of development already envisaged in ESC's Local Plan. In addition, as the SHELAA (strategic housing economic land availability assessment) conducted by what was Waveney District Council is less than two years old KG thought this was unnecessary and unwarranted. JM sought the advice of Chris Bowden who took the same view. In addition, Locality's guidance on site assessment is clear that a call for sites is unnecessary if a SHELAA is less than 2 / 3 years old.
7. Long term car park site (incl. potential conflict of interest) – **BM will try to arrange a meeting with NP group members and the developer who has an option on the site.**
8. Public Pop-up Session – Not discussed as still unable to have due to C19 restrictions
9. Land Registry account- update (PW) – This has been covered in matters arising.
10. Budget update – Not discussed.
11. Date of next meeting – There will be an extra meeting on Wednesday 1st July 2020 at 7pm to continue the discussion on the objectives. The meeting on Tuesday 14th July 2020 at 7 pm will also go ahead.