

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Wednesday 20th January at 7pm
Zoom Virtual Meeting

Minutes

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

1. Apologies – None
2. Matters arising from the minutes:
 - a. Contact made with the Southwold Railway Trust and a useful meeting held with James Hewett the Chair. They are keen to develop a tourist attraction in the town for young families and have their eyes on the land off Saxon Way that developers are now working on.
 - b. JM has been in touch with the MG about NP wish to designate the Green as a Local Green Space. They do not see it as necessary. They are also in touch with the developers of the Saxon Way land as the MG need to retain their right of access. **JM will pick up the boundary issue for CB when she does the cycle routes.**
 - c. Library - ACV is not a planning issue but a community matter. Details of how to do it sent by Stuart Halsey. **BM now looking into it.**
 - d. Masterplanning - Variation of old grant and a new grant application made to Locality. These have been successful and we now have the money to cover CB costs and Master Plan work. To be used before the end of March.
 - e. HCN article – produced and sent off for publication.
 - f. Maps funding – the money has been secured and received for the first leaflet and HTC agreed to fund a second.
3. SWOT analysis – The group discussed strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in relation to the town at present. **JM and CS will create a few paragraphs to bring these all together for the Halesworth Today section of the Plan.**
4. Masterplan Grant from Locality – We Made That have agreed the price to complete the Masterplanning work.
5. Reports:

Verges/railway – The verge on Bramblewood Way is now included in the asset transfer to HTC. There is a wish by the Halesworth to Southwold Railway group to situate an information board and other railway artifacts on it as it is opposite where the station used to be. It is also near the Museum so could be an attractive addition to walks around town. HTC seem in favour as long as the group maintain the verge and no costs fall to the council.

Site on Saxons Way – The site in front of the Millennium Green has been cleared. This was a rejected site in the Local Plan. Contact with the owners has been made by MG trustees to try to establish why the site has been cleared but nothing has been forthcoming yet. The Millennium Green have access through the site and are keen to ensure this is kept open. **JM will make contact with the developers.**

Badgers site – This is planned as a high density site with 40 dwellings per hectare. This would mean flats would have to be considered. The density of the site is controlled by the Local Plan. **JM has asked We Made That to look at the site and will raise it in the meeting planned with ESC.**

Long term car park site – Another planning application will need to be submitted given the changes to the site boundaries.

Town Centre Feasibility – KG to email We Made That for a pre-meeting to discuss work done so far in the way of desk top exercises. There will then be a meeting with ESC planners, We Made That, KG and JM 28th January to take a broader look at the Town Centre.

A meeting with Ben Woolnough (ESC Major Infrastructure) discussed the Patrick Stead hospital building and potential community centre. The NP group have discussed designating or listing the building in the past, the idea of designating/listing just the frontage was suggested meaning it wouldn't hamper future development as listing the whole building but still retain the recognisable features. To be considered. BW also made it clear that the CIL money attached to the future community centre is not tied to the Diary Farm site but can be used elsewhere if HTC think there is a better solution.

6. Objective 2 – Housing – **EH will make an introduction at Hopkins Homes for JM to contact. KG will contact ESC regarding Council housing. TA to contact housing associations – Flagship, Orbit etc. CS will tackle the Housing Needs Assessment – can the NP suggest a different % of housing types and is there the evidence needed to do this.**

The group agreed that this objective would be started by next meeting.

7. Update on policy work –

CS to complete engagement policy.

Obj 3 – to demonstrate that Halesworth could be a creative industries growth area, evidence from artists and those associated with the area is needed. JM has written to artists for this and has arranged for a survey link to appear in the Waveney & Blyth Valley arts newsletter. **JM to email finalised survey to PW & EH to create survey in Survey Monkey.**

Flooding – CS has been in contact with the Environment Agency and they have agreed to work collaboratively with ESC, Millennium Green Trust and Suffolk Wildlife Trust. **CS to prepare a briefing for HTC.** The EA have asked for information from CS in return which she is compiling.

ESC have launched a consultation on Open and Play Spaces in the area. **CS has emailed Ruth Bishop at ESC seeking contact details of the consultants as they could be doing some very useful work that we need doing on open spaces and play spaces.**

Education – **KG to contact Seckford Trust** regarding their conversation with SCC.

Cycling and Walking to School – Through an introduction from Ben Woolnough (ESC) a meeting has been set with the SCC officers responsible for planning the expansion of Edgar Sewter. The transport planner will also be at the meeting so we can see if the development of the school can act as a hook to improve access. **JM and CS.**

Street Design Codes – SCC have set high standards for new developments regarding footpaths and cycle paths and other aspects of street and water drainage design. Unfortunately, these standards will be hard to meet in existing developments. **JM will complete the survey and suggest that Halesworth would be a good testing ground to try and apply new guidelines in existing streets.**

Disability surveys – still to be completed by HVC and Reability.

The walking routes leaflet funding was approved by HTC and the leaflets can now be produced.

Photographs – KG & TA will send photos to PW. BM to list views that need photos taking for inclusion in the plan. He will also look in the LP to check other views listed in there. This will be completed by the next meeting.

8. Budget update – This was not discussed at this meeting.

9. Comments from the group – all discussed above

Dates of next meeting: 17th February 2021 at the earlier time of 6-8pm.