

Crowhurst Neighbourhood Plan Group

Notes of Meeting held on Saturday 16 April 2016 in Crowhurst Village Hall

In Attendance: 16 Residents

Apologies: Nick & Nicola Stell, Tim & Penny Knaggs, Liz Hone, Gareth & Catherine Bright, Martin White, Diane Stainsby, May Treu, Tracy Hoad, Alan Collins.

The meeting was facilitated by Gail Harley who thanked everyone for attending.

1. Notes of Last Meetings

- 1.1 Neighbourhood Plan - The notes from the meeting held on 24 March 2016 were agreed.
- 1.2 Steering Group - The notes from the meeting held on 6 April 2016 were agreed. It was pointed out that the date of the next Steering Group meeting had been changed to Wednesday 27 April 2016 at 7.30pm in the St George's Parish Room.

In view of all minutes being distributed before meetings, it was agreed that in future participants would be asked if there were any questions arising from the minutes, rather than having them read through at the beginning of each meeting.

2. Task Groups

2.1 Sites & Site Survey

Chris Davidson outlined some points he thought should be considered. This task group cannot be isolated from the other task groups and the whole Neighbourhood Plan needs to be looked at, not to just concentrate on where to put 20 houses. The process of neighbourhood planning should be to strengthen cohesion in the village and housing must not endanger this; people may have strong views on where housing can and cannot be built. Compromises may need to be made. Housing needs to enhance the village and should be mixed to allow for all age groups and household circumstances. He pointed out that additional housing could be of financial help in various areas, e.g. the school, road safety, pub, all of which could be strengthened. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) would be received on all new housing and there would be additional Precept money as a result of more houses.

The process for calling for sites should be open, transparent and democratic with all suggestions being considered, having taken into account the national and local planning guidelines. The identification and choice of sites may prove difficult and contentious and it is crucial that residents are asked to comment on all site suggestions before any final decision is made.

The meeting agreed that the task group will be Chris Davidson, Sonia Plato, Martin White, Simon Leader, Laura Cecil and Pat Buckle. The first meeting to be held within the next two weeks when comprehensive details will be drawn up for presentation at the next Steering Group meeting. Although not members of the task group both

Graeme Quinnell and Chas Pearce have agreed to assist. It was confirmed that any Land Registry fees arising from tracing absent landowners would come out of the grant monies.

Parish Council had proposed that the Planning Group take over the progressing of the new village hall and that this should be included in the survey for development sites. However the meeting felt that this complex area should be dealt with separately, and that firstly village residents need to be asked whether they actually want a new village hall.

Sonia Plato advised the meeting that East Sussex County Council should be notified that Crowhurst is developing a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) because it can provide considerable statistical information for the evidence base of the Plan, as well as advice for a range of relevant areas, e.g. environment, flooding, heritage, etc.

Alan Stainsby reminded the meeting that although housing is important the wider context needs to be taken into account. A NP is not just about housing but how the village will look in, say, 50 years time,

2.2 Finance

Ann Wilson informed the meeting that there was nothing to report until costings had been received by this task group. It was pointed out that costings should be for all aspects of the Plan and that estimated budgets needed to be worked up because money cannot be requested in retrospect.

2.3 Communication

Ros Day reported that an advert was placed in the Crowhurst News this month for anyone with an interest and experience in IT who would be willing to assist with setting up the website. No replies received so far so the group will ask Claverham Community College if any IT student (from Crowhurst) would like to gain experience which would add to their CV and assist in the preparation of the Plan. Other agencies, e.g. Amicus Housing, Southeastern Railway, would be contacted and informed of the preparation of Crowhurst's NP and asked to let us know about any future plans they may have that may impact.

2.4. Street Champions

Willy Wilson reported that this task group had identified the number of houses in the village and suggested that there should be 2 street champions for each allocated area of 10 houses. These Street Champions would deliver flyers and information and talk to all residents in all households to ensure everyone in the village has sufficient information to make an informed decision when the village referendum is carried out. Alan Stainsby suggested that Street Champions could also be asked to report any vulnerable residents to him.

The task group had already identified some possible street champions but volunteers would be sought through a request delivered to households with information about processing a NP.

2.5. **Identifying Further Task Groups**

- a) Research into other Neighbourhood Plans - Dave Howley had identified Kingston, nr Lewes, as a village of similar size to Crowhurst that already had a NP. This could be useful in seeing the process it followed and the documentation used.
- b) It was suggested that a Research Task Group may be useful for undertaking research for all task groups which may avoid duplication of effort. Anyone interested in setting this up should contact Dave Howley on 830349.
- c) Project Timetable – It was noted that this should also include, e.g. the village fayre, NP survey. Anyone interested in setting this up and monitoring progress should contact Ros Day on 830616.
- d) Sonia Plato highlighted the need for a Project Plan and establishing milestones against this. Examples of those used by other Neighbourhood Plan Groups were available and could inform our own. This as well as the Budget could be put on the Steering Group agenda.

3. **Bexhill & Rother Environmental Groups**

Dave Howley informed the meeting of a Sustainable Housing meeting being held on Wednesday 27 April 2016 at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Green Lane, Bexhill which may be of interest. It was also noted that Battle Environment Group was also interested in green issues.

4. **Date of Next Meetings**

- 4.1 **Neighbourhood Plan Group** – Wednesday 18 May 2016 at 7.30pm in Crowhurst Village Hall. It was agreed that future meetings would continue to be rotated between weekdays and weekends but Saturday mornings may be considered.
- 4.2 **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group** – Wednesday 27 April 2016 at 7.30pm in the Parish Room at the Church.

Gail Harley thanked everyone for their work and closed the meeting at 5.15pm.