

## PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the Town Development Committee was held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Petersfield on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 3.00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllr J Palmer (Chairman), Cllr J Deane, Cllr P Humphries, Cllr J Matthews, Cllr Ms M Vincent, District Cllr Mrs J Butler (EHDC), County Councillor V Clarke (HCC), Mr R Mocatta (South Downs National Park Authority), Mr T Struthers (Petersfield Society)

Also in attendance: Mr N Hitch (Town Clerk), Cllr Mrs L Farrow, 3 members of the public plus the Petersfield Post.

### **T 0879**      CHAIRMANS REMARKS

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He commented that it had been a busy month. The South Downs Planning Committee decision to defer the Causeway Farm planning application had been a good result for the Neighbourhood Plan. Progress was being made with the self-build sites in relation to the creation of the Community Land Trust and the Chairman had attended two meetings in this connection. He also advised everyone of the Community Energy meeting being held on 17<sup>th</sup> May at the Methodist Church.

### **T 0880**      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Mr R Besant (PNP)

### **T 0881**      GRANTING OF DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT (2011)

There were no requests for dispensation.

### **T 0882**      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest. The Town Clerk reported that the two non-councillor members of the committee had both completed and signed a Disclosable Pecuniary Interests form.

### **T 0883**      APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Town Development Committee minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016, previously circulated, were approved.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Town Development Committee, held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016, be approved.

### **T 0884**      PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Nigel Wells addressed the Committee in connection with the proposed new community building to be built on Love Lane. He asked whether the

committee considered the Festival for Young People (FfYP) was the correct group or body to carry this project forward or if there are others that were considered to be better qualified. Mr Wells said it was the FfYP's aim to bring together as many groups as possible into the building which it was hoped would lead to better community integration and relations.

Members asked various questions of Mr Wells who advised that the FfYP had received a negative response to the proposed new building from the Community Centre following a meeting held to discuss the potential layout and contents of the building as they were not interested at the moment.

Members advised that they could be clear to FfYP over the policy of the Council in connection with this project as the policy coincided with the policies and aspirations of the Neighbourhood Plan. This policy allowed the Community Centre to relocate to Love Lane, which was supported by the Community Centre Trustees at the time of the creation of the Plan. The Council supported the concept of the facility but the contents of the building still needed to be evidence based. The Council would also do what it could to support the best organisation to carry the project forward.

T 0885

#### **PROGRESS ON RESOLUTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Chairman demonstrated the spreadsheet that had been created by the Office & Committee Manager in order to manage project activity in the future. Members were pleased with the content whilst noting that more detail remained to be added as the document had been created in a skeleton format initially.

In relation to other decisions made at the previous meeting the following was noted:

- Disclosable Pecuniary Interest forms had been distributed to and completed by the non-councillor members of the committee;
- The letter to be sent to the Leader of East Hampshire District Council remained outstanding;
- The meeting with East Hampshire District Council regarding the Sports Hub still had to be arranged;
- The meeting with East Hampshire District Council regarding the Town Square would be arranged shortly at the same time as the Sports Hub meeting;
- The advertisement for new non-councillor members had been published;
- Initial discussions with the South Downs National Park over funding for projects had been held and a meeting would be arranged to take this further;
- The Chairman had met with the Committee & Office Manager to talk thorough project tracking documentation.

**REVIEW RECENTLY SUBMITTED PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Members commented that they were pleased to see the deferral granted by the South Downs National Park Authority in relation to the Causeway Farm planning application in view of the lack of detail that had been incorporated into the original plans. The applicants had circulated correspondence to councillors addressing some of the issues held over the application but some issues remained, particularly with the balancing pond.

There was significant discussion about the application with members expressing concerns that the application still failed to meet a number of the policies contained within the Neighbourhood Plan - namely H1, BEP7, HP5, GAP1 plus NEP 1 and 2. Following further discussion it was:

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr J Deane attend the meeting of the National Park Planning Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> May on behalf of the Town Council to object to the Causeway Farm application on the basis that it is still not compliant with the Petersfield Neighbourhood Plan policies H1, BEP7, HP5, GAP1, NEP1 and 2.

Prior to the vote it was requested that a Recorded Vote be held.

In favour: Cllr V Clarke, Cllr Mrs J Butler, Cllr J Matthews, Cllr J Deane, Cllr J Palmer, Mr T Struthers and Cllr P Humphries.

Against: None.

Abstentions: Cllr M Vincent and Cllr R Mocatta

**FINAL TWO APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEE**

The Chairman advised that there were four interested parties for the two positions available following the articles placed in the Petersfield Post and in the Town Council newsletter. He advised that applications would be left open until the end of May bearing in mind that the newsletter had only recently been distributed. He suggested that a decision be made at the next meeting and that a resume of the applicants would be circulated to committee members privately. It was noted that the calibre of those having expressed an interest in the role was high and members discussed the potential for increasing the number of non-councillors on the committee, provided the Council was willing to alter the Terms of Reference following which it was:

**RECOMMENDED:** That the Council allow latitude to increase the numbers of members of the public on the Town Development Committee to permit up to six members to be so appointed, if desired.

T 0888

### FUNDING STREAMS FOR PROJECTS

Members noted that a number of the projects to be tackled in the future could potentially attract funding from national or European funding pots and this needed to be considered. It was also considered possible that Hampshire Highways may be able to assist in seeking or obtaining funding for some of the projects. The Chairman suggested that one of the new committee appointees could be appointed as a 'funding champion'

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr V Clarke contact Hampshire Highways to explore potential funding streams or opportunities.

T 0889

### TRACKING OF PROJECTS

The Chairman explained the structure of the Project Tracking spreadsheet created by the Committee & Office Manager which was well received by all present.

**RESOLVED:** That the Tracking Document be reviewed as a standing agenda item

T 0890

### PROJECT REVIEWS

- a) **The Square**  
Meeting is awaited. Presence of the South Downs National Park Authority at the previous meeting was positive.
- b) **Self Build**  
The Chairman has made some initial exploration into funding of a Community Land Trust (CLT). This would allow for a member of the national CLT network to come and talk to us and also allow us to put together a legal framework. The Facebook page has generated quite a bit of interest.
- c) **Infrastructure Delivery Plan**  
The notes from the Travel Plan Network meeting had been circulated and are attached as Appendix A.

All funding is now in place for the cycle track from Queen Elizabeth country Park to Petersfield and action is anticipated soon.

Improvements to the railway station forecourt have been delayed as the South West Trains franchise is coming up for renewal.

Following discussion it was:

**RESOLVED:** to invite Sustrans and Hampshire Highways to come and talk to the committee to brief us on what they do and how the Neighbourhood Plan can help them.

- d) **Penns Place**  
A meeting is awaited.
- e) **Highways**  
No information was available.
- f) **Green Infrastructure**  
There had been a successful event this week in seeking volunteers to assist with the tree survey. 15 volunteers had signed up and there was significant enthusiasm from Forest Research. The next stage will be to map places from the Neighbourhood Plan and the 'landwatch' software was mentioned as giving useful information on how land use had changed over the years.

T 0891

**PENNS FIELD 'A' DEVELOPMENT**

The Chairman outlined the background to this item following the request from Council that the committee investigate contingency plans for the handling of this development.

Members agreed that advise was needed and that the valuation of the land, once a successful planning approval had been granted was key. A lengthy and detailed discussion followed covering the terms of the current Option Agreement following which it was:

**RESOLVED:** that a Working party be created consisting of all town councillors on the committee. The Working Party be tasked to report back to the committee next month with recommendations for what needs to be done in the event of a planning approval being granted on the site and for sources of independent advice that may need to be consulted.

**RECOMMENDED:** To seek approval for the cost of initial professional advice needed to fulfil the recommendations of the Working Party up to the sum of £12,000.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.59 p.m*

## East Hampshire Travel Plan Network

Cllr Deane and I attended a meeting of the East Hampshire Travel Plan Network group on 29/4/16 at Re-Format, an architectural practice based at the old Buckmore farm site.

This is an initiative from HCC who have effectively commissioned Sustrans to establish a number of such networks across the county.

The aim of Travel Plan Networks (TPN) is to help employers to promote use of public transport, walking, cycling, car sharing and other smarter travel behaviours among their employees, in the easiest and most cost effective. In particular:

- To offer a forum for sharing information, ideas and best practice in terms of travel planning initiatives
- To increase awareness of sustainable travel options
- To reduce vehicle trips to partner businesses and the associated carbon emissions
- To identify potential cost savings for businesses
- To identify more efficient ways of working
- To identify and address existing barriers to sustainable commuting and business travel, helping to alleviate traffic congestion on the local road network

Further details - <http://myjourneyhampshire.com/>

At present this is the scope of the funding, however Sustrans have shown great initiative in bringing together a range of interested parties to ensure that there is a greater reach and impact for this work. The previous meeting was focussed on employers and representatives of EHDC, SW Trains and the Community Rail Partnership but this meeting began to explore a wider network of contacts.

Their plans are somewhat nebulous at this stage and, as ever, are dependent on funding but there was very strong support for the initiatives at the meeting and we all saw considerable benefit for the town in working together to improve travel and its sustainability in and around the area.

During the meeting we had updates on

- Petersfield station improvements – those completed and some insights in to SWT plans for the future, although these are subject to their franchise bid being successful. Outside the main meeting we spoke with Richard Kempton of SWT about parking issues and the prospect of a second “deck” on the south side of the station.
- QE Park to Petersfield cycle track – all funding secured and Highways England now completing their part of the work. Sadly, no extra details on the completion of the final section which was delayed by “unforeseen ground conditions” (What do you mean it’s chalk??)
- Community Rail Partnership – ensuring close liaison with SWT
- TPN Examples – several examples were given of Sustrans working with employers to provide smart driver training, bike training, bike maintenance, route planning, car share plans, and other methods of encouraging sustainable travel.
- Peterfield as a destination – not an agenda item but this was another key point of discussion; the ambition to make Petersfield a destination in itself as well as a key gateway to the SDNP.

We discussed the role of the Petersfield Neighbourhood Plan and in particular the considerable impact we felt using this and working through the Town Development Committee could have in helping move forward some of the ideas. This was strongly supported by the Petersfield Society and was very well received.

Looking forward we felt that where infrastructure changes are indicated it is likely we will want to look to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to fund these. For example, we all felt signage for walking and cycling currently needs improvement and that some walking paths need attention.

Overall it was a very positive and encouraging meeting around an initiative which could make a very positive contribution to the life of the town and its businesses.

### **Attendance**

Attending the meeting were:

Josh Allen, Sustrans  
Peter Bisset, Petersfield Society  
James Deane, Petersfield Town Councillor  
Keith Hopper, Petersfield Society  
Phill Humphries, Petersfield Town Councillor  
Richard Kempton, SW Trains  
Stephen Lampard, Re-Format  
Mark Miller, East Hampshire Community Rail partnership  
Sue Nottingham, Sustrans  
Neal Parr, Whitman Laboratories  
Debbie Vodden, East Hampshire District Council

There were apologies from:

John Bell, Whitman Laboratories  
Liza Brolly, East Hampshire District Council  
Julie Butler, East Hampshire District Councillor  
Adam Carew, East Hampshire District Councillor  
Colin Carre, South Downs National Park  
Claire Coxwell, Community First  
Sarah Hobbs, East Hampshire District Council  
Steve Hodgkison, Stagecoach  
Stephanie Maskew, Petersfield Community Hospital  
David Robbins, Churchers College  
Christine Seaward, Sustainability Centre  
Sheila Barker-Wallis, Tesco

### **Suggested Actions**

- To brief the TDC on the East Hampshire Travel Plan Network initiative
- That we ensure we are represented at future meetings
- To consider inviting SWT and the Rail Partnership to brief the TDC on their work and plans

Phillip Humphries

30/4/16

