

**Minutes of BADGERS MOUNT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 9th STEERING  
GROUP (NPSG) MTG – 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 (7.45pm– 9.45pm)**

**Attendees and Apologies for Absence**

Chair – Cllr Alistair Dunlop (AD)

Geoff Dessent (GD) – Neighbourhood Plan Coordinator., Cllr Simon Lake (SL), Cllr Gordon Plumb (GP). Cllr Tracey McCartney (TMC), Catherine Southwood (CS) Simon Taylor (SDC)

Apologies – Cllr John Grint, Roger King, Zena Belton

The minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Neighbourhood Steering Group were agreed and signed and have been placed on the website.

**1. Topic Groups**

A great deal of work has been done with useful reports from three of the topic groups, which were circulated. There has not yet been a formal report from the Character and Heritage sub-group, though a good deal of information about the history of the parish has been pulled together.

Further topic group meetings are planned shortly and GP agreed to join the Character and Heritage sub-group. Some of these meetings will also explore the cross-cutting issues and overlaps.

**2. Progress on Residents' Engagement**

It was agreed that this was very important and Cllr Plumb kindly agreed to draw up a list for this splitting up the work with those available. All doors in the Parish would be knocked on during January 2020. Members of the NPSG agreed that this would be done. GD agreed to provide a flyer – speaking note for these visits, which would also advertise the open meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January.

**3. Progress on Stakeholder Engagement**

- Conways – no face to face formal contact yet made
- Polhill – SL is in contact with them, noting there were electric vehicle charging points now available on the site and that the business was very much here to stay as an important part of the local community
- Kent Downs AONB – GD reported a positive conversation – a summary of which has been circulated – there is a good deal alignment between the Kent Downs AONB and the aspirations of the Neighbourhood Plan as regards both the two development sites and the future of the woodland

- Further work – it will be important to pick off the next set of key stakeholders in the coming months

#### **4. Neighbourhood Plan Policy on plot sizes (ratio of build to plot size)**

Unclear on the SDC policy on this area (which will be explored) and the need for any departure from it to meet local needs – but this is a policy which needs to be listed in the Neighbourhood Plan

#### **5. Habitat Study report**

As the report was delivered very late, it was agreed to defer this discussion until the December meeting.

#### **6. Planning for the Open meeting On 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

It was agreed that, the format would be as follows:

- Opening presentation on the story so far and the Neighbourhood Plan objectives and timeline given by AD
- Split into the four topic groups for discussion and resident input
- Feedback from the Topic group
- Summing up of the inputs and the way forward and next steps – this should include an update on the Sevenoaks Local Plan

#### **7. Budget**

It was agreed that as the Habitat report was delayed, then payment would not be made until members of the steering group had had a chance to discuss this on 19 December.

It was also agreed that GD to secure a projector for future meetings asap with a maximum budget of £500.

No payments were therefore agreed at his meeting, but it was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan's share of the reclaimed VAT recently received was £910.

There will be a further amount of VAT to be reclaimed in the next few weeks, which will accrue a further £400 to the Neighbourhood Plan Account.

#### **8. Next Steps**

Next meeting on 19 December.- it was agreed that this was important.