



Houghton Regis Neighbourhood Plan

Notes from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting: 18th April 2018 held at 6.30 pm

Attendees: Carol Butler (CB); Christine Clavey (CC); Neil Fearn(NF); David Gibbons (DG); Sally Gray (SGr); Cllr James Carroll (JC); Cllr Martin Kennedy; Cllr David Abbott (DA).

Also present: Cllr Ms J Hillyard (JH); Debbie Marsh (Corporate Services Manager- DM).

- 1) Apologies** were received from Cllr K Wattingham, Cllr Mrs Susan Goodchild, Cllr Mrs T McMahon, Tracy Plunkett and Alan Winter.
- 2) Notes from the previous meeting held on the 21st March 2018:** All agreed although a minor amendment was requested on page 2. Councillor Susan Goodchild made the comment in regard to health inequalities and not Sally Gray, as noted.

Matters arising: None

3) Reports from the Task & Finish groups:

The Chair suggested and everyone agreed that this meeting should focus entirely on item 4.

4) Communication/Publicity/Public Involvement

DG – Banners have been erected, on the village green railings. An article, a full-page advertisement and poster is being prepared for The Clanger, a community paper, deadline tomorrow.

MK – What is the proposed reach?

DG – 500/600 printed. 1,500 readerships on line. There have been nearly 400 responses to the survey so far. I am going also speak to Sarah in the hope we can have a stall at the May Fair. Houghton Hall Park is not a suitable event for us to attend. It is proposed to close the survey on the 20th May.

SGr – So as not to exclude people, what about door to door in Sewell? They probably do not realise they are in the parish of Houghton Regis.

JC – At last year's Town meeting a neighbourhood plan Facebook page was promised.

JH – There is a lack of engagement when no one knows what it's about.

DG – Go door to door? Not a lot of time.

SGr – I am happy to do Sewell.

MK – Martin Small suggested a response of 500 would be good. We shouldn't get hung up on numbers. There has not been the same level of engagement with other, that are not in Sewell.

DG – Survey covers all six areas.

JC – Sewell key with open spaces.

JH – How many people who have responded to the survey are Houghton Regis residents?

DG – Majority. Age breakdown good. Ethnic not so good.

MK – What is the demographic breakdown for Houghton Regis?

JC – Printed in Polish?

CC - Not the problem.

DG – The issues is the lack of responses from those who are non-white British. How many languages would we need to print in? Who would translate these? Advantage of doing survey in person.

NF – arrived at 6.53pm.

DG – If we know where these neighbourhoods are.

MK – 2011 census.

DG – Do we know where to target?

JC – Chelsea Gardens area.

CB – Hawthorn Park.

JC – Houghton Park. Contact Hawthorn Park school.

DG – TP and SG are not here so no report.

JC – All households in Sewell are on the Town Councils list and have a Town Crier posted to them.

SGr – Letter out to them?

DG – They would have to be sent out soon.

JC – Rural cu-de-sac. 5 or more houses.

NF – Lamp columns?

MK – No.

CB – Could we provide a freepost envelope?

CC – Face to face.

DG – Chelsea Gardens, who? What if we took a small gazebo on different greens at different times for example Hawthorn School at pick up time? Glossy A4 pamphlet through doors. Youth Council may be able to help.

JC – Put leaflets out.

DG – 4 page A5 glossy leaflet.

MK – The idea of marquees is not likely to engage. May Fair events etc would be better. Sporting events, football.

DA – Sundays.

MK – Outside Morrisons or in Bedford Square.

DG – Neptune Square? There is a parade of shops.

NF – Engage with people and get them to complete the survey.

JC – Various means of engagement.

CC – What about the Health Watch event at Asda 11th May 9am-1.30pm?

DG – Tithe Farm swimming pool. Who could approach?

CC – Susan.

JH – Laptop tomorrow in the concourse – 2pm to 8om – HRN1 consultation.

SGr – It would confuse people.

JH – Concourse is not their space.

DG – We could have a couple of people there, couple of laptops.

JC – I can do 5pm to 8pm.

DG – Private Facebook page first.

JC – Looking at alternative venues. Ash room.

DG – Jewels.

JH – What about public meetings?

JC – We as a group have got to engage.

DG – How about Friday 18th May 2018, two meetings – one in the afternoon and one in the evening. The six groups need to think of their table. What do you want to show them, talk about?

JH – Left the meeting at 7.46pm.

DG – There has been an upturn of interest following those who turned up at the Towns Meeting.

JC – As a group we need to make a statement to planning re the question, posed at the planning meeting held on the 3rd April 2018, as to whether the chair appointed to this steering group should remain a member due to his association with a company that was looking into building the community centre in HRN2 and whether this association would exclude him from further involvement.

DG – If anything to do with HRN2 was discussed I would leave the room. Furthermore, if the steering group felt my membership was bringing the process into disrepute then I would resign.

ALL – A vote of confidence was taken where it was unanimously agreed that David should remain as chair of the group. The meeting closed at 8.15pm.