



# Houghton Regis Neighbourhood Plan

## Notes from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018 held at 6.30 pm

**Attendees:** Cllr James Carroll (JC); Christine Clavey (CC); Neil Fearn(NF); David Gibbons (DG) - Chair; Cllr Mrs S Goodchild; Sally Gray (SGr); Cllr M Kennedy; Tracy Plunkett; A Winter (AW).

**Also present:** Mr Martin Small (MS) and Debbie Marsh (Corporate Services Manager- DM).

**1) Apologies** were received from Carol Butler, Cllr D Abbott (Cllr J Carroll substituted) and Cllr T McMahon.

**2) Appointment of:**

Vice-Chair – Neil Fearn suggested he was willing to be vice chair. All agreed.

Secretary – No nominations or proposals were received. This position remained vacant.

**3) Notes from the previous meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018:** Approved.

Matters arising: None

**4) Key aspirations from working groups**

Education – Centre for adult learning. Up skilling staff. Example – children’s centre offering child care courses, rather than one centre trying to cover all. Learning centre attached to a leisure centre or library to allow attendees to have a degree of anonymity. SG declared an interest as governor at Tithes Farm school. Current schools not being able to attract pupils due to them being outdated and worn out. Parents being provided with skills to support their children.

Open Spaces – Neil thanked Sally for her support. People despondent, Houghton Regis never seems to get anything. Bullet points based on survey responses. Walking leaflets. Protect current open spaces.

Town Centre – See more shops like high street brands. Redevelop Bedford Square – demolish and open up more to the High Street. Remove flats and replace with office space. Create market style. Rezone of the west end. Focus on entertainment. Theatre style community space. Encourage variety eateries. Improve pedestrian safety and car parking.

Heritage – No representative was present.

Housing – Different types of housing associations. Different types of dwellings – bungalows etc. Government funded schemes. Elderly retirement village – feasible? Other ideas for housing, cut Tithes Farm Recreation ground in half, at the lower end for housing. Utilise top half more. Don’t rule out all sites. People will want to get from one side to the other.

Business & Employment – affordable business rates. Business advice hub. CEMLEP contacted, no reply as yet.

**5) Date of next meeting** – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm. SGr gave apologies.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.