

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Cllr Bob Gustar's Meeting with Barbara Childs & Catherine Howe from HDC

On Tuesday 19th January 2021 at 3.30pm

Venue: MS Teams Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Robert Gustar, Barbara Childs, and Catherine Howe

Also in attendance: Assistant Clerk, Elaine Hunt

- 1) Cllr Gustar updated BC and CH on the changes of personnel at the PC.
- 2) RG also explained that the PC has a revised view of how the Parish should move forward with its NP, which it wishes to re-submit with the inclusion of the two sites cited in Horsham DC's draft Local Plan, giving a scope for 28 new dwellings over the Plan period. Apart from the inclusion of this housing provision, the NP remains largely the same.
- 3) It was emphasised that the NP contains other policies that are important to the PC and the Parish and that is why there is a need for progression.
- 4) BC pointed out that HDC will shortly be publishing its Local Plan and if agreed it will go to consultation and to the Inspector.

BC emphasised that if members agree to include the two sites (that appeared in the Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan published in February 2020) they will become Council Policy and supersede any NP.
- 5) RG confirmed that his understanding of this point.

However, he also told BC that Locality's advice to the PC is to progress its NP, and then if HDC's Local Plan ends up superseding it, the NP can be amended and updated. RG emphasised the fact that it could take HDC another year or even 18 months to have its emerging Plan 'made'. However, we are taking the 25 dwellings requirement in the Draft Plan as the number we need to be looking for.
- 6) CH stressed that this approach carries with it a risk, as pressures for example from HDC's duty to co-operate mean that numbers could change. RG said he understood the risk and thought the PC would be prepared to take it.
- 7) BC said that it looks as though WCPC and HDC are therefore more or less aligned and asked CH if she felt that the NP could therefore be progressed.
- 8) CH said her only concern is that the NP site allocation evidence has not been consulted upon yet, and it may be that this needs to happen before submission to HDC. (i.e. a further regulation 14 consultation). This may be needed to prevent a legal challenge at a later stage which could lead to the loss of all the policies and work on the plan. She agreed to check details with Norman Kwan to confirm this matter.

- 9) RG pointed out the possible financial issue this could create for the PC, having already almost exhausted grant and technical support opportunities getting the Plan to this stage. CH said she'd come back to us as soon as she can.
- 10) It was agreed that another similar meeting should be held in two weeks' time to discuss CH's update and the thoughts of the WCPC Planning Committee on the outcome of this meeting.