

## Minutes of the Stonehouse NDP working group meeting Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015

1. Present: Alastair Shankland (AS), John Jaynes (JJ), Carol Kambites (CK), Clare Sheridan (CS) (*Chair*), Ollie King (OK), Terry Webb (TW), Chris Cowcher (CC) (*Minutes*), Nick Chase (NC), Gary Powell (GP)
2. Apologies: Vicky Redding
3. Declarations of interest: None
4. Approval of the minutes from the working group meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015, and update on any actions:

- CC circulated an email he had received from GRCC (attached with these notes) regarding the potential for carrying out a housing needs assessment as part of the NDP process. Some concern in the group with regards to guidance over 'rural exception sites' and whether this applied in Stonehouse. JJ pointed out that Gov. guidance states that if there are no potential exception sites, then there is no point in doing a HNS. JJ proposed that we examined potential exception sites in the parish, and then consider whether to progress a HNS.

NC raised the issue with evidence required to leverage s106 monies, especially with new Gov. guidance on affordable housing not being required in small developments of less than 10 dwellings. When considering whether to do a HNS, it is worth considering have we got enough information at present from Local Plan presumptions, and Stonehouse consultations to influence decisions. The main decision must be made in relation to what added value the HNS will bring to the NDP.

**ACTION:** CC to contact GRCC and ask for a meeting with Karen Phiminster to clarify the process, and address the concerns about exception sites.

- JJ/AS distributed a set of notes from the meeting with Wycliffe school, please see attached with these notes. JJ drew the attention to the fact that a number of myths were dispelled about timings for building a swimming pool (no plans in the next 5 years), developing further buildings in the parish (nothing planned), being a major local employer and students using a lot of services in the town (they are limited to the Co-Op and the fast food outlets). Continued engagement required, and potential further action will be to meet with their school council, as CK/CS did at Maidenhill.
  - Outstanding actions:
    - AS to redistribute details for accessing the Google Drive
    - AS/NC/VR to meet up and revise the Gantt Chart as part of the central project plan
    - AS to look at SLAs between NDP groups and Las in other areas in the Country
5. Budget Breakdown:
    - AS contract extended to September, with thanks expressed to the Council for supporting this action
    - No major expenditure to report, apart from printing of materials for these meetings
    - Locality funding proposal to be developed in time for April deadline (HNS activity potentially could be included)

6. Project healthcheck:

- The Town Council is interested to see evidence of progression on the plan. Meeting discussed the role of volunteers and the expectations of the working group, and reiterated a previous point that Town Councillors are welcome to attend the NDP working group meetings should they wish to engage first hand.

It was agreed that it could be beneficial to develop an executive summary of research done so far by the NDP, and where this has already been used by the Town Council – not a priority action, but something to be considered in the coming months.

**ACTION:** CK will provide a verbal update to the Town Council at the next meeting.

**ACTION:** CK to approach the Town Council about having a slot at the Annual Meeting, to present the work of the group so far.

7. Plan consultation activities:

- VR to update the group on survey, and the random selection of our prize draw winner. Presentation could potentially be made at the Town Council annual meeting.
- Business consultation; it is now important that we start engaging with any potential land owners regarding their development intentions. This is the opportunity to progress the work that TW and CC started with the High Street residential opportunities audit. FSB may be able to help with this activity.

Discussion was held around potentially engaging with GFirst about their priorities for business and employment, as part of the LEP plans. **ACTION:** AS to research GFirst plan documents, and potentially request a meeting to discuss specifically about Stonehouse development potential for businesses.

- Press/media activities; our profile needs to be greater in the Town and also in the District. It was raised that other NDPs have regular slots in the local newspapers, and this is something we should consider.

OK has now set up a Facebook Group ([LINK](#)) all members of the group are requested to 'like' the page and begin sharing amongst their friends. CC raised the point that we should be using this page to spark conversation on line by posting photographs and questions about development, protected sites, services etc. AS to generate images and upload in the first instance.

AS has now provided the login details to CC for the Twitter account, and CC will help to develop the online presence here through following other NDP groups and linking with the work that CC and NC do with ACRE.

8. Any other business: None

9. Workshop session: Employment

10. Dates of the next meeting:

- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015