

**Minutes of the BATTLE CIVIL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (BCPNP) STEERING GROUP meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7 p.m.**

**In attendance:** Margaret Howell (MH), Bev Marks (BM), Cllr Allan Russell, Cllr Dale Wheeler, Paul Whymark (PW), Cate Sullivan (CS), Sue Best (SB), Cllr Kathryn Field (KF), Jane de Garston (JdG, minutes)

1. **Apologies** – Cllr Andrew Brown
2. **Disclosure of interest** – All members declared an interest in the FOI/Complaint.  
CS Loose Farm  
SB correspondence received from land owner
3. **Minutes of the last meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> July** were approved. Thanks were given to DW for taking these minutes.
4. **Matter arising** – Enquiries have been made of previous BCPNPSG members for any information regarding call for sites. The Town Clerk had approached Julie Jessop, on behalf of the steering group, and 1 letter had been located. Any information located regarding the call for sites we will be collated with existing documents on file.

All developer forms, except 1, have been completed and returned. **Action:** CS to chase

AR gave an update on the site on Marley Lane which had been wrongly assessed. He confirmed the site had always been the correct one, it was only the site which had been incorrectly looked at.

5. **Correspondence received** – Emails received have been responded to or are in the process of being replied to.  
It was noted that one landowner's representative has been emailing Donna Moles directly.
6. **Report on Rother meeting** – MH reported the meeting had been productive. Concerns were raised as Frank Rallings has raised several points that have not matched information received from Donna Moles (DM).  
RDC have scheduled a conference call with DM as a face to face meeting could not be arranged.

AR raised concerns regarding the upcoming Core Strategy review which could significantly increase the number of properties needing to be built in Battle. KF suggested contacting RDC.

Discussions moved onto how to get public backing for the plan as the recent feedback had indicated that most responses were from complainants and not those backing the scheme. It was agreed MH's article should contain information regarding the CiL funding to encourage some more positive feedback. KF advised the general principle of the plan had not been reported an issue during her recent door knocks as part of the local election campaign but there will always be a core of people who do not wish to see further development of an area.

The group are not aware of how the referendum needs to be operated. **Action:** CS to contact RDC Electoral office for any advice.

7. **MP's meeting** - MH & BM reported back on the meeting with John Howell and Huw Merriman which was felt to be positive.

AR asked if there had been any advice on plans like Battle's being held up or affected by core strategy changes. BM responses he did not think there was anything that could be offered. Although John did refer to the aspect that land within the AONB can request discretionary consideration for the number of properties to be allocated. Huw may be able to assist with the LPA as he has good support links.

**8. Progress on Reg 14** – There will be no update on DM's progress until after the conference call with RDC.

Members agreed a meeting may need to be scheduled once the RDC meeting has been completed.

It was reported that Frank Rallings has offered advice on the Policies of other plans to assist them through examination.

**9. FOI/complaint** – members noted the Town Clerk is in contact with the complainant and that the FOI request is being investigated as to what is required.

AR advised that Full Council had considered the complaint and a response was to be sent to the complainant. MH expressed frustration that the complaint is about the BCPNSG yet they are not permitted to have the detail to be able to defend themselves.

KF advised that in the case of unhappy constituents the matter is referred to an ombudsman for resolution.

**10. Feedback from 4<sup>th</sup> May** – PW presented a Powerpoint with the consultation results.

The requests for services such as GP and education are beyond the remit of the plan but they are repeated requests from respondents.

**11. Site re-assessment** – members agreed to re-order the preferred site selection based on the results of the recent developers meetings.

**12. AOB -**

BM spoke on the LGS report which is has been completed for the majority of locations. RDC are meeting to discuss 5 locations on 23 July. 2 sites remain where the ownership is unknown and 3 sites have yet to respond, these will be chased.

Most ESCC locations are adjacent to the highway and JHowell has advised these can be marked designated.

A meeting had been suggested by the land owner's agent. **Action** AR/BM to arrange this.

BM will feedback to DM on responses received to date.

Members agreed to update the Register of Interest from for the website, based on the documents already received.

**13. Date & time of next meeting** – Meeting date to be decided following the conference call between DM & RDC.