

DINNINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Minutes of a Meeting Held on Saturday 15th July 2017 at the Lyric Theatre, Dinnington.

Present: D.Dixon (Acting Chairperson for Meeting), A Milner (DSJTC), J.Simmonds (DSJTC), S.Moore (Group Secretary), D.Bloor, P.Cotton, G.Capper, D.Walker, L.Banham, R.Gyte, B.Keeley, Mrs B.Keeley

In attendance: A.Towlerton

1. Apologies: D.Smith (Dinnington St John's Town Council (DSJTC), J.Curran (Rother Valley South Area Assembly)

2. Welcome to Cllr. Lelliott and Paul Woodcock

The group were pleased to welcome Cllr.Lelliott and Paul Woodcock (RMBC Assistant Director – Planning, Regeneration and Environment)

Group members were introduced to Cllr Lelliott and Paul Woodcock.

A presentation was carried out by David Dixon on the Neighbourhood Plan, its importance to the Dinnington area and residents, its progress, position to date and actions yet to be taken.

A copy of the presentation had previously been sent out to members. Copies were also made available at the meeting.

Discussion was held on the use of brown field sites within the area. Paul Woodcock informed the group that RMBC had proposed a brown field site first policy to the inspector within the RMBC Local Plan; however this policy had been rejected by the inspector

3. Update on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and questions on CIL to Cllr.Lelliott

It was confirmed that the CIL funding process was now in place within RMBC and had largely replaced the previous 106 monies system.

It was also confirmed by Cllr Lelliott that CIL funding was payable on the commencement of a development but there was an opportunity for developers to make staged payments rather than an upfront one.

Paul Woodcock informed the group that if the Dinnington Neighbourhood Plan was met in full then over the 15 period it could realise £180,000 at 15% and £300,000 at 25% in CIL Funding.

The 100% amount received on completion of the housing targets in the plan would be £1.2 million.

When CIL funding is due to be paid this would be paid on a 6-month basis. It was also confirmed that there could be an opportunity for matched funding from RMBC with regard to jointly beneficial projects between Dinnington Town Council and RMBC.

It was requested by David Dixon that there should be a joined up approach operated between Parish Councils where CIL projects go across parish boundaries so that best use can be made of combined CIL funds where appropriate.

Paul Woodcock informed the group that other sources of funding is diminishing, for example, funding for transport will be halved in the near future. The point was made that although CIL funding could be used for such projects as health centres etc, we must be aware that these would still need to operate on a financial viability once they have been developed.

Cllr Lelliott and Paul Woodcock confirmed that they are both happy to be contacts to the group for information etc. if we cannot get this directly from RMBC.

Cllr Lelliott informed the group that new positions of 'Ward Based Officer' have been set up within RMBC to support and inform Neighbourhood Plan groups during the development of their plans. She stated that it is important that we have an initial meeting with the designated Ward Officer for Dinnington.

She will set up the meeting and is happy to attend as well.

The group also felt that it would be useful to arrange a meeting with the three local Dinnington RMBC councillors to update them on the plan and gather their support for its development and implementation.

4. Questions and Update on RMBC Regeneration Strategy and its influence on the Dinnington Regions and Neighbourhood Plan – Paul Woodcock

Discussion was held on the RMBC Strategic Policies and the Rotherham Local Plan: Core Strategy.

It was stated that where RMBC have determined housing sites and numbers but the DSJNP will determine the broad type of housing and other site specific community requirements for these sites then these should fit in with the core strategies stated. If this differs then the group will need to enter into dialogue with RMBC to resolve any issues.

We also need to ensure that the RMBC Planning department are fully aware of the findings and evidence gained from the AECOM housing sites consultancy currently taking place.

It was stated by Paul Woodcock that the sites identified in the RMBC Local Plan for Dinnington and approved by the inspector were now fixed and non-negotiable. This did not fit in with the groups understanding and raised questions on where this policy would leave any alternative sites identified by the neighbourhood plan.

Concern was expressed that at the meeting held on the 9th June between RMBC Planning and the DSJNP group we were led to believe that there was a degree of flexibility on the final sites to be determined. It was also a large concern that it appears that RMBC have gained approval for the housing sites identified in the RMBC Local Plan from the inspector without informing DSJNP that that process was taking place and therefore leaving DSJNP unable to submit any alternatives.

David Dixon stated that we need to have a further meeting with Andy Duncan (RMBC Planning) about this issue on the sites identified in the Rotherham Local Plan and whether alternative sites can be considered where evidence would indicate that they are more viable.

Paul Woodcock agreed to set up a meeting between Andy Duncan and DSJNP and will contact Steve Moore with some dates over the next two weeks.

5. Discussion on Strategic Policies in Rotherham and Neighbourhood Plan guidance documents.

These documents have now been produced by RMBC and copies issued to the DSJNP group.

Although it was felt that some aspects of strategic policies document appears would benefit from clarification and may not fit with Government guidance, it was however accepted that this and the neighbourhood planning guidance document issued will be acceptable as an alternative to the Memorandum of Understanding document previously issued by DSJNP to RMBC planning. Steve Moore is to contact Rachel Overfield (RMBC) of our acceptance of the documents issued. The documents will be discussed at the proposed meeting with Andy Duncan.

At this meeting it was agreed that we need to obtain clarification on sites and flexibilities and it would also be good to have some feedback from Aecom on their finding to date.

Steve Moore is to contact Aecom to request feedback on the progress of the survey to date and update on any findings and evidence on the proposed sites at this stage.

Andrew Towlerton will also produce a draft time line on where the neighbourhood plan stands at this time.

6. To consider the key actions from the meeting held on 10th June 2017

Due to the meeting going passed its planned time scale it was agreed that any other items on the agenda will be discussed at the next meeting.

The minutes from the 10th June were however passed as a true and accurate copy.

7. Any other business

None

8. To confirm the date of next group meeting

The next meeting will be at 10.00 a.m. on Saturday 19th August. Location to be confirmed.

Pam Cotton and Debra Bloor have stated their apologies that they will be unable to attend this meeting.