Minutes of a Meeting
Held on Thursday 17th January 2019
Council Office, Lyric Theatre, Dinnington.

Present: David Smith (Chairman), David Dixon (Vice Chairman), James Simmonds, Linda Banham, Pam Cotton and David Johnstone, Pauline Davies, Steve Moore, Andy Milner, Rachel Gyte, Debra Bloor, Brian Keeley and Brenda Keeley.

There were no apologies.

In attendance: AndrewTowlerton (Neighbourhood Planning Consultant and Secretary).

1. To consider progress with the consultation on the draft Plan.

   It was reported that this was progressing well. It was still early stages, and there had only been a trickle of responses. Those received were very positive.

   Due to a slight hiccup with uploading some of the supporting evidence documents on the website, it had been agreed to extend the deadline for comments by a week to the 18 February 2019.

   A verbal and written report was provided on the drop-events held on the 14th and 15th December 2018. These had gone very well. Over 80 people had attended. The feedback was very positive both in terms of the plan and the proposed Sports and Leisure Centre. AT promised to provide the Sports and Leisure Centre Sub-Committee with the specific comments received on the proposed Sports and Leisure Centre.

   The Secretary reported that Rotherham MBC had indicated that they might not be able to prepare the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening within the required timescales. This had the potential to delay the Plan’s progress. He explained that he was preparing the latest funding bid to Locality and there may be scope to add this. He was asked to emphasise to Rotherham MBC the importance of this area of activity, and that if the Group had to pay for it, they would be seeking payment for this from Rotherham MBC.

2. To receive a report from the Sports and Leisure Centre Group and consider next steps, including a feasibility study and its funding.

   A report was provided by the Sub-Committee leading on this. Good progress had been made.

   A project scoping document had been developed. D Smith was asked to sign the project scoping document on behalf of the Town Council, which he did.

   It was explained that the initial focus of the Group was identifying and progressing funding applications to take forward the project. Initial discussions with potential funders, including Sport England had been positive.

   D Smith explained that the project had been discussed and endorsed at a recent meeting of the Town Council.

   Reference was made to a recently opened leisure centre in Clowne, Derbyshire developed by the Town Council. It was agreed that it might be useful to make links with Clowne Town Council to share ideas and experiences.
D Dixon asked if anyone had examples of Memorandum of Understanding that may be of use to the Steering Group, he would like to receive them.

3. To consider progress with the Scarsdale Housing site.

A general discussion took place on this. AT confirmed that he was still finalising the funding bid to Homes for England that could potentially provide significant financial support to take forward the site for affordable housing. He hoped to submit it very soon. D Smith updated the group on progress with discussions with the school. He asked if the Secretary could provide a map showing the area of land required from the school to facilitate its development. He agreed to provide this.

4. Any other business.

Dave Dixon highlighted a new funding opportunity ‘Future High Streets Fund’ that may be of interest especially in the context of the agreed Town Centre Masterplan. He specifically asked the Secretary’s thoughts on its potential and eligibility of the Town Council to bid, which he agreed to provide.

5. To confirm the date of the next group meeting

It was agreed that this should take place on Saturday 23 February 2019 at 10.00 a.m. at the Town Council Offices, and that it should focus on the outcomes from the consultation on the Draft Plan.