



TENTERDEN
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Steering Committee Meeting 4 June 2020

Present:

Cllr J Crawford
Cllr K Walder
Irene Dibben
Joseph Franklin
Richard Masefield
Siggi Nepp
Sue Quinton
Samantha Reed
Stephen Sidebottom
Graham Smith
Helen Whitehead

Apologies:

Cllr J Curteis

In Attendance:

Tomos Innes an intern with Cllr Walder

1. Minutes of 14 May 2020 were accepted and approved

2. Matters Arising

Richard thanked the committee and working groups for all the work carried out so far.

It was noted that the May meeting was predominantly concerned with discussing Tony Fullwood's proposals for Developing the Tenterden Neighbourhood Plan and the suggestions for new or expanded working groups that it contained. The purpose of the current meeting is for those groups to update the Committee on their progress.

3. Community Engagement report

The report, prepared by Richard for submission to Tony and circulation to the Steering Committee, represents a comprehensive record of community engagement to date, to be updated as necessary and edited to whatever form the Examiner requires. It was noted that residents' records of local species have exceeded 2000 within a single year, as evidence of continuous community involvement.

4. Working Groups

a) Communications

Joseph and Kate updated the meeting. In the short term the Facebook page, which has 800 followers, needs to be augmented and improved. A range of opportunities to

engage younger people in Tenterden were raised and discussed, including TikTok videos and targeted campaigns (e.g. to promote tourism and support local businesses). Siggie mentioned sustainability as a key message. Richard indicated that the Committee will need to communicate with the community in the near future concerning the short-list of sites for LGS designation, and referred to Tony's NP Reg. 14 recommendation for questionnaires asking respondents whether they 'strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree,' etc. with proposals to protect each potential LGS site. Joseph emphasised the importance of communicating the breadth of the TNP. The development of a communications 'vision board' involving all aspects of the plan was discussed.

b) Green Spaces and Biodiversity & Wildlife

The two groups have amalgamated and held a number of meetings. The new team have refined the short list of potential LGS sites, recently using a 'traffic light' selection system proposed by Tony. Richard took the members through the '4th Sieve' of listed sites prepared and circulated by Sue. There was a great deal of discussion about sites proposed for designation or for separate policies within the TNP, particularly around a proposal for a waterways/surface drainage/flood plain policy related to climate change. Tony is to be consulted very shortly by the group on their work so far.

c) Landscape

Siggie reported that a separate working group has been formed to include Helen, John and Sam, with a brief to consider the urban boundary. Siggie emphasised the Character Assessment Report as a key body of work within the TNP, with published data to be referenced. There followed a discussion about the AECOM Design Codes report and Tony's contribution to it.

d) Urban boundary

After consulting with Simon Cole regarding the built confines process within a Neighbourhood Plan, and conversely as a separate exercise to the drawing up of a Neighbourhood Plan, Helen outlined the pros and cons of defining the built confines under both systems, where the alternative is for the Borough Council to initiate an informal exercise of drawing up a settlement confines boundary, which would then be consulted upon by the Parish and the Town Council. The issue of the impact of either route upon green spaces and possible developments within and adjacent to the boundary is to be considered. Mapping was discussed and statutory and non-statutory designations. The group will liaise with Tony on the best way forward.

e) Routeways

Stephen reported on 9 possible policies within the TNP, as discussed with Tony. More formal design work will be required to correspond with that of the Landscape group. Access to routeways was discussed, with an increasing emphasis on cycle lanes considered to be important. ABC are to announce a new Walking and Cycling Strategy. A number of the Routeways policies may be broadened to emphasise wellbeing (e.g. in relation to the Recs).

- f) **Local Economy** Stephen reported that there are 10 potential policy areas for further discussion with Tony. A great deal of information is available. Ongoing work will involve a definition of the town centre and dialogue with local businesses. The Business section of the Rolvenden NP was recommended for the Committee's attention.

5. Expenditure

Expenditure to date is £1,315.00, including £1,140.00 reimbursed to Locality. John has submitted his initial bid to Locality for the current financial year, and has asked Irene to circulate his Professional Planning Support document. Irene is also to re-circulate Tony's amended list of tasks in support of the TNP, in 4 phases with estimates of days spent.

6. AOB

It was agreed that future community engagement relating to the expansion and progress of the TNP should include invitations to stakeholders, landowners, local businesses and community groups, to enable exchanges of information and ideas with the Steering Committee. Any future presentations from local groups are to be attended by the Town Clerk.