

Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Minutes of the meeting held on October 6th 2015 at 8pm in St Agatha's Church Room

Present: Jason Debney (Chair), Celia Collett, David Fox, Steve Capel-Davis, John Rodda, Adrian Wood, John Arbuckle, Lucy Dalby (Clerk), Rona Knott (SODC) and Charlotte Colver (SODC).

Apologies for absence were received from Helen Baines.

1 Welcome to SODC NP officers – Rona Knot and Charlotte Colver. Charlotte has recently joined SODC and is to become the Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Neighbourhood Plan lead officer.

2 Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Draft was discussed.

It was agreed to take the site selection out of the Site Assessment Criteria and create a separate assessment to create a clear decision process.

It was agreed to take Site Assessment Criteria out of the Scoping Report and work on it separately in order that the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report could be submitted to SODC.

SODC will send to the report to the Statutory Consultees and it was agreed to send it to the neighbouring parishes and AONB board for information at the same time.

John Arbuckle will evaluate the comments from the Statutory Consultees.

3 Landscape Character Assessment

It was agreed to hold this item over to the next meeting and to consider employing a consultant to complete this assessment.

4 Site Selection Criteria

It was agreed to consult residents on Site Selection Criteria agreed by the Steering Group. Jason Debney will send out a draft criteria list for comment and agreement at the next meeting.

All options are to be assessed and robust reasons must be listed why some sites are eliminated.

Sites should be identified along with reserve sites for use should the initial sites not deliver within a specified time frame. However this can cause problems as reserve sites might come forward too quickly and the principle has been set.

It isn't possible to set a maximum number of houses but the committee don't want to unwittingly open the floodgates by allowing too many sites to fit the criteria.

It was agreed that it is important to ensure that the criteria are robust enough to operate in the intended way.

General Site Selection Policies need to be agreed. These policies shouldn't repeat existing Local and National Policies and must be consistent with them. It was agreed to use the Community Led Plan for direction and to list concerns and what the committee would like to protect. SODC will check they are suitable. The policies will need to be consulted on. Local and National Policies are likely to eliminate quite a few sites.

5 Site Selection - potential sites

It was agreed to review the maps and confirm that every possible site is included for consideration.

6 Areas of High Landscape Value and Views - draft map for comments (from CLPP)

For next meeting.

7 Edge of Settlement - draft map for comment.

It was agreed to complete an edge of settlement study to identify important edges and important gaps.

8 Agricultural Housing – Paper enclosed

For next meeting.

9 Past Planning Trends

For next meeting.

10 Solar Energy Farm - update from last PC meeting

For next meeting.

11 Public Meeting

It was agreed to hold a public meeting in mid-February.

12. Any other business

Various landowners have contacted the Steering Group to discuss their sites. It was agreed to send a standard letter and put a statement on the website confirming that the group is in the process of preparing the plan and will contact them when they are ready to discuss specific sites.

The meeting was declared closed at 10pm.