

MUCH HADHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Minutes of the Meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group held in the Green Room, Much Hadham Village Hall on Tuesday 9th February 2016, at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Cllr Ian Hunt (Chair), Martin Adams, Mark Ashwell, Michael Byrne, Neil Clarke, Cllr Ian Devonshire, Ken Howlett, Bill O'Neill, Lynne Mills.

IN ATTENDANCE: One resident of the parish.

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The first survey results would be presented later in the meeting. The Facebook page was open. There had been a separate Workshop to start planning the public consultation event and five members of the group paid a productive and informative visit to St Elizabeth's, which could result in future collaboration. He also thanked Cllr Alex Young who had resigned from the NPSG as a consequence of being elected Acting Chair of the Parish Council, which had increased his commitments. Alex's role as policy leader for infrastructure, which covers roads, utilities, broadband etc, would be open to any volunteer and the Chair would be happy to explain further to anyone interested.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mari Fleming, Hugh Labram and Penny Taylor (and as a consequence, LM would be acting Secretary for this meeting).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 12th January, 2015 were accepted as an accurate record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

19th March, 10am-3pm feasible for the public consultation.

Boo Williams contacted re photos for the event.

Contact with the Bishop's Stortford consultation events organiser had not been possible.

Photos of other events uploaded to Dropbox.

Contact with Gigaclear ongoing but no opportunity as yet to discuss the budget with LM.

6. PROJECT PROGRESS

The results of the survey have been collated in a secure folder to avoid corruption and will be more widely accessible in the future, probably with password protect to prevent inadvertent editing. Now evidence needs to be gathered for policies to be drafted by May. The consultation event will provide some of this but will also make sure the broad themes are right. Status of the website not known in Mari's absence.

7. RESIDENTS' SURVEY

The primary purpose of the survey was to help us identify an overall theme or vision for what Much Hadham should be like in a few years' time, so that our planning policies could work towards that goal. Invitations to complete the survey online using SurveyMonkey were sent out in January to our mailing list, to all school parents via Parentmail, to Sandra McAdam's grapevine list and by Veronica Illiffe to the Perry Green & Green Tye Society.

We also created an identical paper survey and dropped 2 copies into the letterboxes of almost every house in the parish on the weekend of 16/17 Jan – thanks go to Penny and all who volunteered to help with that. Paper responses were collected by Londis, hand-delivered to the Chair's house or received by post. The Chair felt reasonably confident that all residents would have had at least one opportunity to complete the survey.

We have 157 valid replies to date of which only 53 were online; 2/3 were paper-based. The vetting and analysis has been shared between Mari and the Chair: agreeing the analytical processes, checking each other's work and so on.

The Chair handed out the two pages forming Appendix A (a demographic analysis and the ranked results of what residents liked, disliked and wanted to see improved) and commented on these. However, in Mari's absence at short notice, more detailed results analysis would have to follow later.

8. LOCAL PLAN PROGRESS

The District Plan is likely to be delayed by one to two months, following recommendations from the Planning Inspectorate for additional survey work. East Herts have been advised that any Local Plan should stand for a minimum of fifteen years. As the plan will probably not be adopted until 2017, this pushes the end of the plan period to 2032. Ourr Neighbourhood Plan, in order to be aligned with the Local Plan, may now want to go from 2017 to 2032 (i.e. a year later than originally planned for). This does not affect the number of houses, which still stands at a minimum of 54. The houses approved for Old Station Yard, will NEVER be included in the 54, as this land is outside of the Village Development boundary. We may decide to extend the Village boundary for the NP, but this decision will be far too late to include the houses in Old Station Yard that have already been given approval. The decision to give approval (at DMC on 3rd February) to three large detached houses in Old Station Yard flies in the face of all Local Planning legislation and opens other areas around our village to potential applications. This makes the adoption of the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan even more important and even more urgent

The Chair advised there was good news in the form of the rejection of an application for a change of use to residential for unused agricultural buildings at the top of New Barns Lane – rejected due to being an unsustainable location i.e. requires additional traffic to access village services – that's the distinction with Old Station Yard, which is close enough to access services by walking.

9. RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

Resident Nick Turton, who had presented strong arguments against the planning application at Old Station Yard at the EHC Development Management Committee meeting, when the application had been approved, reminded us of the primary reasons for opposing it. There are ten protected species on the site including rare bats and Roman snails. The residents are considering further possible action. It was suggested that there should now be more urgency to have the Neighbourhood Plan adopted and that similar sites are now being looked at by developers. MB suggested that the sites rejected by SLAA could now possibly be reconsidered in light of this planning decision.

10. CONSULTATION EVENT

MB to approach Strutt & Parker re sponsorship. Art Soc had agreed to let their stands be used. The Chair suggested a further meeting of policy leaders to plan questions etc for the event.

11. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

There were no specific new items for the next agenda.

12. CLOSING COMMENTS

The Chair advised members of two public meetings being held by Standon's NPSG next week and recommended attendance so that we could learn from their experience.

The Chair reiterated that there were still four vacancies on the Parish Council, which are open for nomination by anyone living within three miles of the Parish boundary. He encouraged members to spread the word that it would be preferable for resident parishioners to be elected.

ACTIONS

1. **MB** to contact Strutt and Parker re: involvement in consultation event
2. **Mari** – further analysis of survey results and update on website progress
3. Further planning meetings for consultation event
4. Attendance at Standon’s public meetings

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 8th March 2016 at 7.30pm at the Bowls Club.

12th April – Bowls Club

10th May - Green Tye Mission Hall

14th June - Green Room

12th July – Green Room

9th August – Green Room

13th September – Green Room

11th October – Bowls Club

8th November – Bowls Club

13th December – Bowls Club

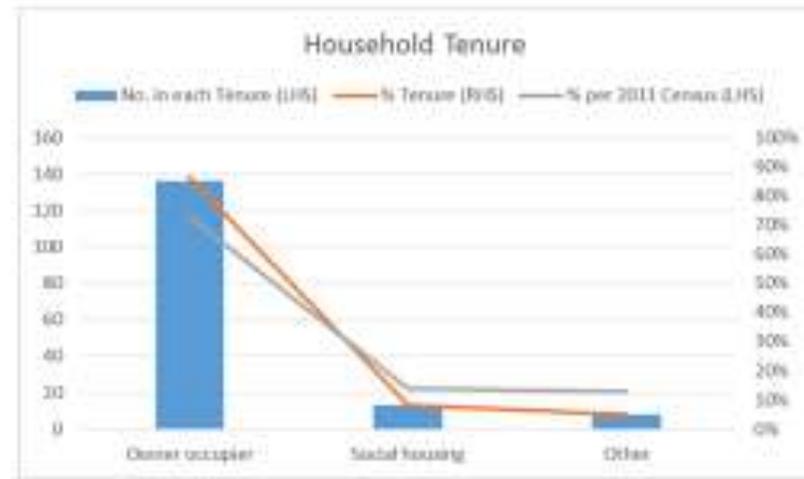
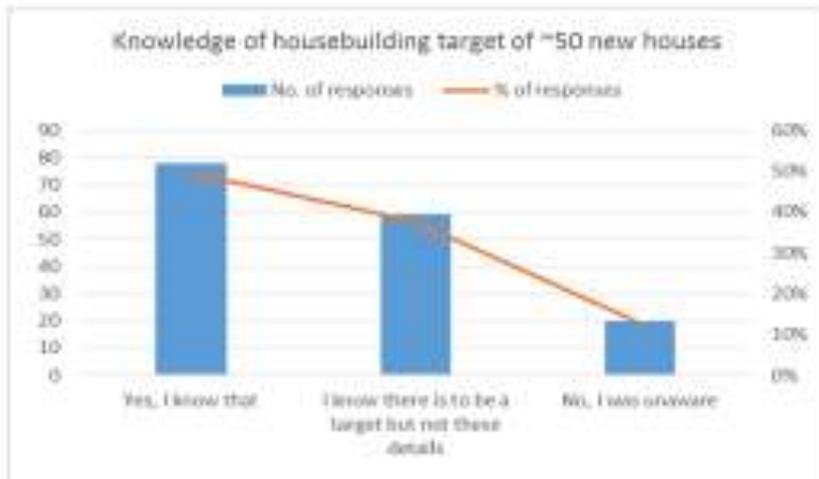
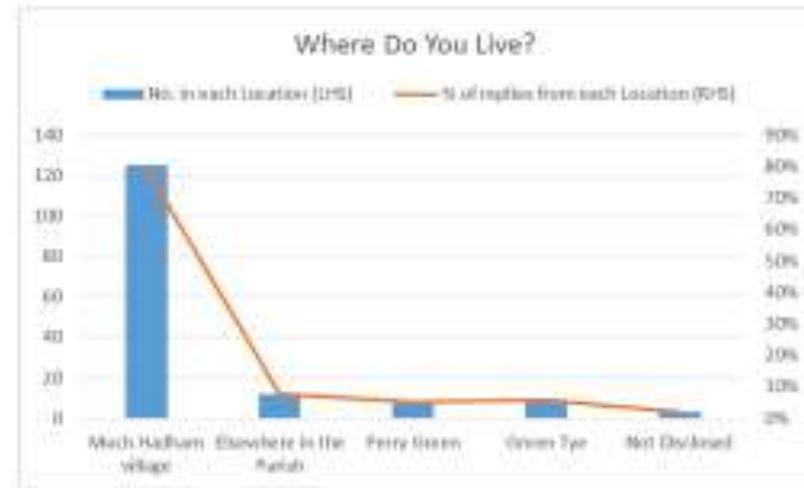
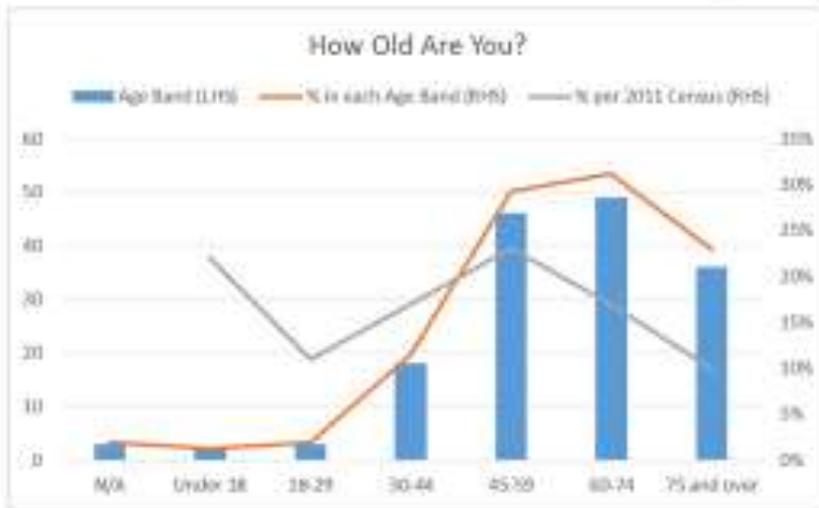
The meeting closed at approximately 9.30 pm.

LM – 16/2/16

APPENDIX A

Vision Survey – Respondents’ Details

n=157



	LIKE				Responses
L3	Community / friendly / spirit				99
L2	Village amenities				86
L1	Countryside				82
L7	Built environment / beautiful buildings / safe / clean				54
L5	Social events / clubs				39
L6	Proximity to larger towns				25
L8	Footpaths and bridleways				18
L4	History / HMF				4
					407
	DISLIKE				
D1	Traffic (speed + volume) / rat run				92
D6	Road + footpath maintenance / street lighting				58
D2	Parking				44
D8	Unmanaged / unsuitable development				34
D5	Poor amenities / facilities				28
D3	Public Transport (type, quality, frequency)				24
D10	Village administration / communication				16
D4	Flooding				10
D9	Slow broadband				10
D12	Lack of cleanliness / litter / dog fouling				9
D7	Jolly Waggoners				6
D11	Stansted aircraft noise				6
					337
	IMPROVEMENTS				
I2	Traffic management				69
I5	Manage Development / Suitable Housing Development				52
I1	Road repairs				42
I3	Parking management				26
I10	Leisure facilities incl. paths and cycle paths				26
I13	Village management, administration and communication				25
I12	Street lighting and pavement maintenance				21
I9	Cleanliness / litter management				15
I7	Reduce flooding / gully clearing				14
I6	Broadband improvements / mobile signal				13
I4	Jolly Waggoners site				11
I11	Public transport				9
I15	Retail Facilities				7
I8	More dog bins				3
I16	Stansted aircraft traffic and noise				3
I14	<i>Void - merged with 10</i>				
					336