

Minutes of the Meeting of the Much Hadham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
held in the Green Room
on Tuesday 12th July 2016, at 7.30 pm

Present: Ian Hunt (Chair), Neil Clarke, Ken Howlett, Mark Ashwell, Lynne Mills.

Action

1. Chairman's Welcome
Apologise that the meeting is inquorate and therefore no decisions can be taken. Penny Taylor has had to resign from her role as Secretary to the Steering Group for health reasons. She has also created space on the parish council's website for NP matters, where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found. Mari Fleming has had to stand down from the Group for now, again for health reasons. Mari's work on managing the Dropbox folders has been picked up by Martin Adams. Cllr Clive Thompson is also absent for family reasons. Item 4 on the agenda states that we were due to co-opt Clive on to the Steering Group this month but this is postponed to our next meeting.
2. Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Hugh Labram, Cllr Ian Devonshire, Martin Adams, Michael Byrne, Cllr Bill O'Neill.
3. Declarations of interest
There were no declarations of interest.
4. Co-option : Cllr Clive Thompson
Postponed to next meeting.
5. Minutes of the last meeting
Postponed to next meeting.
6. Matters Arising
Postponed to next meeting.
7. Consultation Event 18th June
The consultation event was a significant success for the Steering Group. Over 100 people attended. A majority described it as excellent with almost everybody else ranking it as very good. The post-it comments have been transcribed into a word document and a response created to each one. All the material should be uploaded to the website shortly.

IH distributed a presentation of results from the event (attached). It was noted that the strength of opinion and uniformity of views consistent. NC commented that the views re refurbishment of the village hall and mission hall at Green Tye was surprising and was possibly a result of the way the question was presented. KH also suggested that housing options at the Barn School site would need further research.

In light of the inquorate numbers, standing orders were suspended to allow for more residents' comments. A resident asked if there would be more consultation events. IH responded that there would be possibly two more, followed by a parish wide referendum on the final plan. There would need to be a vote of 50%+1 to carry.

Another resident commented that there seemed to be a great deal of activity around Wheatcroft (the SLAA site on Kettle Green Lane). In particular the foundations for a road had been laid along the length of Old Station Yard site emerging on to the Wheatcroft field. EHC were breaking their own rules ref

development, and he suggested the Steering Group should be looking into it. It remained unclear what “powers” the Group had in these cases.

8. SLAA Round 4 Consultation
IH distributed the PC's SLAA response to the June 2016 consultation (attached).
9. Policy Leader Updates
Development Land – MB and BO'N not in attendance.
Housing Needs Assessment – KH stated that priorities should probably be given to retirees and downsizers, 'nest flyers' and first time buyers to keep the village vibrant. IH pointed out that there is a published toolkit available on how to complete a HNA, which should be adopted.
EHC Policy Developments – ID not in attendance.
10. Residents' Comments
See above.
11. Next 3 months' objectives
Although there were not enough members present for significant discussion it was noted that objectives needed to be put into place to keep the momentum going.
12. Items for next Agenda
The use of consultants.
13. Closing Comments
The group is quite well resourced for planning expertise but needs secretarial, IT, analysis, communications etc support.
14. Date of next meeting
Tuesday 9th August, venue to be announced.
13th September - Green Tye Mission Hall
11th October – Bowls Club
8th November – Bowls Club
13th December – Bowls Club