

Steering Committee of Pembury Neighbourhood Development Plan

Minutes of the Third Meeting held online on 16th February 2021 at 19.30.

1. **Present:** Alan Gaukroger, Christine Lane, Graham Hall, Alice O’Meara, Sarah Clarke and Nigel Stratton. **Action**

In Attendance: Jim Boot.

2. **Apologies for Absence:** There were none.

3. **Habitat Survey and Biological Records.**

Graham reported that he had completed the form and submitted it to the Kent & Medway Research Group. He had tried to contact them subsequently but to no avail.

JB to let Graham have contact details for Laurie Jackson , who was going to provide training. **Jim/Graham**

Sarah provided a contact – Derek Parks of Gimble Way – for butterflies, moths and birds.

4. **Design Codes and Masterplanning.**

Jim reported that the Parish Council had applied to Locality for Technical Support for this purpose. The application had been granted with both packages being awarded and AECOM, one of the preferred contractors, would be working with us. Masterplanning would be for the 3 sites along High Street/Hastings Road and also the proposed development at Downingbury.

Jim, Alison and Nigel had had an initial meeting with Ben Castell. Luis Juarez had been assigned to us together with “Holly” a graduate planner. Luis was an urban designer with experience of rural areas.

Alison Eardley was keen to have an ongoing dialogue with AECOM throughout the process, rather than them going away and coming back with a concept into which we had had no input. We would need a Landscape Architect as well.

Jim made it clear that Design Codes and Masterplanning was not mandatory, but a request to developers to follow and a material consideration for the Local Planning Authority when being asked to grant planning permission.

Contact had also been made with Ellen Gilbert and Deborah Dixon from TWBC and a meeting with them and AECOM proposed.

It was agreed that time was of the essence and that it was important to hold back developers while this masterplanning was developed. Concern was expressed at the possibility of planning applications being submitted once the draft Local Plan had been published for Section 19 consultation. This consultation would begin on 22nd March and would last at least 6 weeks.

It was proposed that the members of the Steering Committee meet with the masterplanners as soon as possible in the next 10 days. **Jim**

Alice reminded members of the outcomes of the survey which had attracted approximately 100 responses so far. She would circulate the outcomes to members of this committee.

Alice

5. Infrastructure and Community Facilities.

A general discussion took place.

Sarah reminded the committee of the drainage problems in The Reidgeway estate and also in the lower part of Pembury. These problems would need addressing, especially in respect of the proposed development at Downingbury.

There were problems with broadband with water corrosion of the copper wires, which would not be resolved until fibre cabling had been rolled out across the village.

6. Community Engagement and Visioning Event.

Although it was thought desirable to have a “person to person” event, Jim informed the meeting about the successful online visioning event he had held for Aldington and Bonnington and shared some of the content with the committee.

A discussion took place about how we could communicate with the public. In Peacehaven Jim reported that 12,000 leaflets had been sent out and 800 responses received.

Alice reminded the meeting of the number of different channels open to us including billboards on the Green. The latest edition of the PVN would be delivered shortly.

After discussion it was agreed that:

1. We would hold an online “Zoom” visioning event on Wednesday 21st April. Jim to organize. **Jim**
2. People wishing to take part would either have to book through Eventbrite or through the PC website. This to be agreed.
3. Alice would liaise with Alison and produce an A5 leaflet, which would also have a tear-off section for residents to return. **Alice/Alison**
4. The leaflet would be printed and sent out with the PVN. Yvette would need to hold back delivery if necessary for a short while. **Alice/Yvette**
5. Sarah would contact the Post Office to see if they would host a box where responses to the leaflet could be left. **Sarah**

7. Transport Proposals.

Jim went through these highlighting which ones could be included in the NDP and which ones could form the basis of projects.

It was agreed that the closure of Kings Toll Road would be parked for the moment, as would be the one-way system proposed for the High Street and Hastings Road. The latter though would form part of the Visioning Event to gauge public support for the idea.

Nigel would produce a revised list dividing the proposals as above and would circulate.

Nigel

8. Date of Next Meeting.

This would be on **23rd March 2021 at 7.30 pm.** via Zoom. Jim would be unable to be with us, but it was hoped that Alison would be able to attend. (Confirmed subsequently that she is able to.)