

MINUTES

MEETING NAME: FAREHAM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP

Date: Thursday 28 February 2008
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Council Chamber

Attendees: Dr Pauline Holmes, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Councillor Swanbrow, Fareham Borough Council
Caroline Dibden, Campaign for Protection of the Rural England
Brenda Clapperton, The Fareham Society
Charlotte Brown, Miller Homes Ltd
Nicola Jane, Radian
John Thorne, First Group
Andy Maclean, Transport Team South, Hampshire County Council
Linda Jewell, Head of Planning Policy and Development, Fareham Borough Council
Dominic Lyster, Principal Planning Officer, Fareham Borough Council
Lucinda Baker, Senior Planning Officer, Fareham Borough Council
Selina Crocombe, Principal Planning Officer, Fareham Borough Council
Heather Cusack, Environmental Health Manager, Fareham Borough Council
Kate Busby, Business Support Manager, Fareham Borough Council - minute taker

Apologies: Matt Kitchin, First Group
Chris Allington, Hampshire Economic Partnership
Mike Jeffery, Gosport Borough Council

ACTION

- 1. Apologies**
Apologies were received from :
Matt Kitchin, First Group
Chris Allington, Hampshire Economic Partnership
Mike Jeffery, Gosport Borough Council
- 2. Appointment of Chairman and Board Representative**
Pauline Holmes confirmed that after discussing the matter with her colleagues she is happy to take on the role of Chairman, and to represent the Planning and Sustainability Partnership at Network Fareham Board meetings.
- 3. Notes of last meeting**
Correction noted - Caroline Dibden represents Campaign for the Protection of Rural England.

Brenda Clapperton highlighted that the 'note' format of recording meetings is inadequate and that more detailed minutes are required to record discussions.

4. Future role of the Partnership

Linda Jewell outlined that the future focus of this group should have a wider remit of Transport and Material Resources, rather than focusing on the Local Development Framework, as the LDF sits at a higher level and is relevant to all LSP Thematic Partnerships. LDF matters will be reported to all Thematic Partnerships as they all have a role to play in informing the LDF progress in their particular area of expertise.

A list of relevant topics and indicators was reported to the Network Fareham Board in December 2007 which represents a key list of issues to be covered by the group. This list and the minutes of the December Board meeting are attached to these minutes. It was felt that coast and countryside indicators should be included as none are currently identified. Specific reference to Gaps and their strategic importance also need to be included. The list (attached) will form the agenda for the next meeting when identification of realistic objectives can take place.

5. Local Development Framework

Linda Jewell gave an outline of the Local Development Framework documents :

Local Development Scheme - LDF project plan. Current document to be revised to include the commencement of an Area Action Plan for the North of Fareham Strategic Development Area in the current year.

Statement of Community Involvement - sets out method of stakeholder involvements

Annual Monitoring Report - Performance reporting summary document used to assess how current policies are working.

Supplementary Planning Documents -

Affordable Housing Policy is already being implemented

Site Development Briefs for Hunts Pond Road and Peters Road have been adopted and both sites have had initial phase planning applications approved subject to the completion of relevant Legal Agreements.

Coldeast Development Brief is currently in preparation.

Daedalus Development Brief to be prepared in due course.

New regulations may enable adoption of SPD's in line with National Guidance / Regional Strategy. The completion of a Developer Contributions SPD would provide a mechanism for bringing the Hampshire County Council contributions policy in respect of transport / education requirements into the LDF.

It was confirmed that, for the purpose of the current round of consultation, individual organisations represented on this group would be responding, but that a group response would be appropriate from the Partnership. Brenda Clapperton noted that on previous consultations to the TPE Task Group it had been very difficult to get a consensus of response in the time available.

The relevant officers for direct contact for each of the documents is as follows:

Core Strategy - Selina Crocombe

Site Allocation - Lucinda Baker

Town Centre Area Action Plan - Dominic Lyster

Brenda Clapperton noted that the Fareham Society has spent hours working through the unwieldy LDF documents in an effort to provide an adequate response to the questions contained within the response forms. She feels that responding to Local Plan documents was not as difficult, and that the complexity and volume of material has largely increased. This view was supported by Caroline Dibden and Pauline Holmes, who felt that member of the public / voluntary organisations are completely adrift as far as LDF consultation is concerned, and that as a consequence of the nature of consultation the quality of responses is bound to suffer.

Linda Jewell discussed the reasons for consulting on the Site Allocations and Town Centre Area Action Plan at the same time as the Core Strategy to ensure that the public are able to see what is proposed more clearly than if the Core Strategy only was consulted on at this stage.

Andy McLean outlined the manner in which new regulations have forced LDF preparation and consultation has been condensed.

A sense of apathy amongst members of the public was also noted, as well as the potential for token responses to be submitted at this stage in order to enable participation during later stages such as examination.

Linda Jewell outlined the current consultation process (powerpoint slide attached to these minutes), and explained the anticipated change in the 'Preferred options' will no longer be a statutory stage and will be replaced by ongoing Local Authority involvement / dialogue with interested parties prior to statutory minimum 6 week consultation period on 'draft' version of documents prior to submission.

It was confirmed that respondents 'burning issues' can be raised in response to the documents, rather than being forced to only answer the questions in the response forms. There is also the opportunity for more detailed dialogue post the current consultation period. It was confirmed that it is reasonable for this group to raise specific issues / policy matters that they feel need to be seen in the documents.

It was suggested that a letter could be sent from the Partnership to MP for Fareham to highlight concern at the complexity of the new Local Development Framework process.

To be clarified

The following points were noted in response to the Core Strategy:

Key Diagram does not indicate area of high landscape value

- It was noted that it may be pertinent for this information to be included although the Key Diagram should not include too detailed restraints, merely a summary of the main concepts for the area.

No coastal policies are included in the Core Strategy - it is felt they are required

Countryside policies are inadequate.

- In response it is was noted that Local Authorities are instructed not to repeat national / regional policies within their LDF documents. A sentence to this effect, supported by a link to the relevant policy / guidance information would make the documents more informative and complete.

The following points were noted in response to the Site Allocations DPD:

Technical Appendices should include page numbers for ease of reference.

Housing figures are over and above SE Plan requirements. How will sites be prevented from being brought forward for development?

A suggested measure to be included could be that development would only be considered if infrastructure can be provided.

It was noted in response that greenfield sites are not required for development at this point in time, and that these sites will not be included at future document stages. The Core Strategy will look at phasing and flexibility to allow for changes in circumstances and will include critical mechanisms to hold back sites. This detail will emerge as the document is progressed.

It was suggested by Brenda Clapperton that a measure could be included that development would only be considered if supporting infrastructure can be demonstrated and provided.

It was queried whether PUSH would continue to measure housing supply. LJ confirmed that local authorities will have to continue to provide this information in Annual Monitoring Reports which include this information.

The following points were noted in response to the Town Centre Area Action Plan:

The visual connection with the coast is not a strength, as stated within the document, but more of a weakness. More detail is required on how the town centre / coastal relationship will be improved.

Difficulties of access for pedestrians / cycles are identified within the document. DL highlighted the opportunity presented for signalised pedestrian / cycle access to Bath Lane from Market Quay / Quay Street vicinity.

6. Any Other Business

Brenda Clapperton noted that a lack of public awareness of the current consultation had been expressed to her. Pauline Holmes supported this, and noted that notification via letter is welcomed as it highlights the

consultation period has commenced.

LJ confirmed that exhibitions have been well publicised through CATS meetings, notice boards and media interest and have been very well attended with over 700 visitors. The exhibition boards remain on display in Fareham library.

Pauline Holmes expressed thanks to the planning policy group for attending the meeting and facilitating discussion and comment on the consultation documents.

LJ confirmed that comments from this meeting will be noted and considered as part of the document development process.

LJ, SC,
DL, LB

Councillor Swanbrow drew attention to and noted the delay in the Central Government response to the South East Plan which has now been postponed until July.

It was questioned whether the membership of the group was seen as adequate. To inform Network Fareham Board membership will be circulated.

LJ noted that Southampton & Fareham Chamber of Commerce have expressed an interest in attending this Partnership, but already attend the Economic Development Partnership on a regular basis. Chris Allington, Hampshire Economic Partnership, has not been able to attend an LDF Partnership meeting, but a representative from HEP also attends the ED Partnership on an ad-hoc basis. A crossover of transport issues has been identified and forms part of the task list for the Economic Development Partnership.

No additional representative requirements were identified over and above those previously identified for ad-hoc input and the meeting held on 15 November 2007. Caroline Dibden suggested it might be useful if those organisations identified were to receive notifications of Planning and Sustainability Partnership dates so they could send a representative should they wish to do so.

Contact
details to
be
confirmed

Pauline Holmes thanked everyone for attending.

Dates of next meetings

Tuesday 13th May 2008 - 10am - Council Chamber

Tuesday 12th August 2008 - 10am - Council Chamber

Thursday 6th November 2008 - 10am - Council Chamber

Tuesday 3rd February 2009 - 10am - Collingwood Room