



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Neighbourhood Planning Committee

REPORT (Minutes)
of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee,
held in the Fleur de Lys Meeting Room
on Thursday 5th September 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

NP/23/04/
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Present: Councillors A. Blake-Coggins, D. Chapman, M. Laxton (Chair) and C Mitchell.

39 **Officers Present:** Mr J. Harrison (Town Clerk), Mrs E. Hastings (Corporate Services Manager) and Mr D. Saxby.

40 **Public Forum**

There were no members of the public present.

41 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted from Councillors Crittenden, Hayes and P. Holbrook.

42 **Declarations of Interest**

None presented.

43 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee held on Thursday 11th July 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Funding

44.1 The Town Clerk said that £9,975 of the grant had been received.

Mr Herbert said that the remainder of the total grant of £18,000 would be awarded when the first part had been spent.

44.2 **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council that a further £24,000 be allocated to the production of an updated Neighbourhood Plan.

43 **Health Check**

At the last meeting, members were allocated policies to review that would be embedded in the Design Code and the Neighbourhood Plan. This would give the final document greater worth.

Councillor Laxton had been charged to look at GS1. She had produced views on the following areas:

Solar panels on new builds were a must but must be of a better style.
Sustainability – drainage must be available in front gardens.
A green space for every development
Allotments

- Cycle paths
- Hedgehog highways
- Rain butts
- Nesting bird bricks
- Cycle storage with connectivity to the Cuckoo Trail
- Electric charging points
- The need to retain existing hedgerow
- Express support for the provision of bungalows
- A housing mix on windfall sites
- Consultation on open areas and play spaces

Councillors Chapman and Mitchell had been asked to review D5 and AQ1

- There was a need for more off-road parking – East Sussex County Council's calculations were not clear
- Allocation of visitor spaces
- Turning spaces were needed
- A need to connect cycle paths with cycle storage
- Gated communities were to be avoided
- Wildlife corridors
- The cycle shed in the town centre needs to be re-instated
- Hailsham to become a transport hub
- Existing public Rights of Way to be kept
- More EV charging points in the town
- A need for a cottage hospital and a triage system
- Primary school and nursery places
- A need to look at shop front designs and illuminated signs

Mr Herbert said there were four main areas: design codes, the town centre, growth areas and movement. He suggested involving Troy Planning's Dutch partners to get their input on house design.

Councillor Laxton proposed an early meeting with the new Wealden District Council officers with responsibility for the Local Plan.

Councillor Laxton said that Councillor Crittenden had not yet produced her review of CF1, as agreed at the last meeting.

Mr Herbert asked about engaging with the public. He suggested a relaunch of the Neighbourhood Plan in October but thought some 'warm up' events leading up to that would be a good idea.

Councillor Laxton suggested a leaflet to be handed out in events during the Hailsham Festival. Mrs Hastings suggested an insert in the Hailsham Newsletter that would soon be published. She said she would speak to the Council's Communication Officer. The leaflet would highlight some successes from the existing Neighbourhood Plan and the benefits of having a Plan. There would be room for members of the public to express their ideas. There would be a need for Survey Monkey to extrapolate the information given.

Councillor Laxton said there was need to give the leaflet to younger members of the public and suggested handing them out at events designed for their attendance.

Mr Herbert agreed to produce the leaflet. He also said he would approach Hailsham Community College with a view to talking to GSE A Level geography students.

Members noted that Mrs Giddings had contacted Mr A. Le Gresley from East Sussex County Council in relation to the green space's connectivity. Mr Le Gresley had provided

some costings for improvements to pathways. In the first instance this will include the Bridleway at Sheppey Walk and Footpath 18b as well as a linkage project in relation to creating a pathway in the tunnel at Abbots Wood. A further update would be given at the next meeting.

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Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 3rd October and then on the first Thursday of the month.

There be being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.44 pm.

Signed
Chair of Committee