

Meeting of Handforth Neighbourhood Plan

Steering Group

Meeting of: Handforth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group held on Tuesday 21st November 2017 at 6:30pm, The Youth Centre, Old Road, Handforth.

Minutes

Present: A Comiskey Dawson, R Small, G Aspinall, B Shenton, C Samson & R Higham.

As the Handforth NPSG has been running for one year, it was decided to re-elect a chairman for the group. R Higham proposed, seconded by C Samson to elect R Small as Chairman of the group. This was unanimously agreed by all members present.

108. To receive apologies for absence.

M Bishop, D Pincombe, S Moore & A Murdoch

109. Minutes of the meeting held on 24th October 2017

R Small noted that the SEA screening report has been returned to the group and will be discussed later in the current agenda. He also noted that with regard to the CIL representation, this was sent to the CEC CIL consultation on the 06/11/17. He had also had a look at the previous CIL consultation responses report from CEC, this report was in the format of two columns, the first had comments from interested parties and the second had the response from CEC, all the responses were in the vein, that, as CEC had done the assessment, they were correct. R Small felt that the submissions from both the group and HPC were very good in that they attacked the methodology behind the original report, and therefore, it would not be so easy for CEC to put such a comment in a future report, as it had been questioned by the consulting firm GVA Grimley.

It was enquired as to whether Kirkwells had been fully appointed to the end of the plan project. The secretary confirmed that Kirkwells had been contacted and their appointment confirmed.

Minutes of last meeting were approved

110. The group had received the SEA report back from CE Planning. The report contained statutory consultee responses from Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. As the Handforth NP had not designated any sites for building it was not necessary for the group to perform an environmental impact assessment. The screening process is now complete.

111. R Small updated the group with regards to the return of the HNPSG representation to the CIL Levy consultation. All responses to the CIL consultation were now available to view on the CEC portal. There are a total of four pages of responses. A number of these responses are from developers and there are a great many from neighbouring town and parish councils which have all take a similar view to that of HPC and the HNPSG. Handforth have been the only group to appoint a viability consultant to challenge the Keppie Massie report. R Small took the opportunity to thank A Murdoch for the incredible amount of work he had done on gathering evidence to challenge the CIL draft charging schedule and for allowing the group to use his evidence to back up their own objections. R Small also noted that A Murdoch, R Higham, Cllr B Tolver, Esther McVey MP and Network Rail had all submitted objections to the draft charging schedule, further supporting the HNPSG position.

112. Updates on responses to First Draft Neighbourhood Plan

A) R Small circulated a preface of the response table that he was currently populating with the responses from residents and statutory consultees. R Small has submitted a number of items which are solely updates to keep the plan as up to date and relevant as possible as further information becomes available and developments happen within Handforth.

B) The secretary wrote to a total of 72 statutory consultees from the list provided by Tom Evans and simplified by Claire Bradley, as of today 10 responses have been received from these statutory consultees, these included: National Grid, United Utilities, Highways England, Manchester Airport Group, Sport England, Frost Planning and the Coal Authority.

R Small reflected that there hadn't been a lot of responses and this was possibly due to a degree of apathy in the area. C Samson commented that maybe there is little to fault in the draft plan. R Small will circulate the full table with all the responses after the close of the consultation period on Monday 27th November.

113. The group reviewed the project planner looking ahead to the next phase of the plan. The planner indicated that during the next four weeks from w/c 26/11/17 the responses to the regulation 14 consultation needed to be tabulated and returned to Claire Bradley, this would be reviewed and advice given to the group on the appropriate responses to this which needed to be given. The group would need to meet in December to review and vote on any changes which they may be advised to make. From this point up until February, Kirkwells would produce the necessary Basic Consultation Statement and Basic Conditions Statement. The changes made by the group to the document also needed to be ratified at a HPC meeting which would most likely take place in February 2018, before the plan could move on to the regulation 16 consultation stage.

114. R Small informed the group that he had been invited to a meeting concerning the provision of Secondary education in Handforth. He noted that he had contacted Wilmslow High School (WHS) in order to obtain up to date enrolment figures for the current school year from WHS, he was told that the board of governors was extremely pleased with the Handforth NP as it advocated increasing the capacity of WHS in its policies. There was further discussion about the possibility of a secondary school being built in the NCGV, but the head of WHS felt that there would not be room to fit a secondary school on the site. Members of the HNPSG also concurred with this view. R Small asked for the groups permission to address the meeting to be held on 22/11/2017 with the following speech:

“My name is Roger Small and I am the Chair of The Handforth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. I have the group’s authority to address tonight’s meeting. The Handforth Draft Neighbourhood Plan will reach the end of its Regulation 14 consultation period next Monday. It contains several recommendations with regard to both the primary and the secondary education of Handforth children. I recognise that secondary education in the Handforth and Wilmslow Area is the main topic tonight’s meeting. However, with the meeting’s indulgence, I would like to say a few words about primary schooling in Handforth - because this has a bearing on what I should like to say about facilities for secondary education

Handforth is fortunate in that two good primary schools are located within the parish boundaries. One of these has recently been rated as outstanding as the result of a recent Ofsted inspection. These two schools are close to capacity and do not accept primary age children living in the south east of the parish. Homes in this part of the parish lie within the catchment area of the Wilmslow Academy.

During the period of the Local Plan, the best part of 1700 new homes are due to be built within Handforth parish boundaries and a further 400+ homes are to be built close to the parish boundaries. For that reason the Handforth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group feel that construction of a new primary school is essential. The Group is therefore pleased to note that a new primary school will be built within the North Cheshire Growth Village.

The majority of primary school leavers in Handforth move on to secondary education at Wilmslow High School. The Handforth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is aware that Wilmslow High School is already oversubscribed and that some Handforth children have to attend secondary schools located much more distantly. For that reason the Handforth Draft Neighbourhood Plan is supportive of the expansion of Wilmslow High School. We believe that the present school site can accommodate more buildings and that money for expansion of the school may be available in the form of S106 contributions from developments in the Handforth, Styal and Wilmslow areas.

While expansion of Wilmslow High School could provide a timely and relatively economic solution to the growing demand for secondary school places, a new secondary school will be required in the longer term. A new secondary school should probably be positioned near the border of Cheshire East with Greater Manchester to meet the demands of both local authorities. However, the Handforth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group does not believe that a new secondary school should be shoe-horned into the existing site

for the North Cheshire Garden Village. Instead, the group would like to suggest that a new secondary school might be located on the pair of large fields that lie immediately to the east of the Growth Village site. These two fields are owned by Cheshire East Council but they lie within the boundary of Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council.”

This was agreed by members present.

The date of the next meeting: TBC.

Close of meeting. At 19:52

Action	By Whom	When By
Circulate the SEA/HRA screening assessment to all members	The Secretary	ASAP
Close Regulation 14 Consultation	All	27/11/2017
Tabulate returns from Regulation 14 Consultation	RS / The Secretary	From 27/11/2017
Return Regulation 14 comments to Kirkwells	RS / The Secretary	After 27/11/2017
Discuss timetable with Kirkwells	RS / The Secretary	ASAP
Attend Secondary Education meeting with LA	RS	22/11/2017

Roger Small
Chairman
21st November 2017