

Notes of Neighbourhood Plan Core Group meeting – Tuesday 22nd November 2016

Present : Sandra Gamble, Chris Thorne, Julia Ford. Apologies : Richard Scott

Information had been received regarding a High Court decision in October whereby a developer in Sussex had successfully challenged a district council's decision to confirm a neighbourhood plan. This is a significant decision marking the boundaries to the "soft touch" approach adopted to the scrutiny of NPs.

In addition, the Urchfont, Wedhampton and Lydeaway NP 2016-2026 had reached the examination stage but following the above recent High Court decision in relation to the Henfield NP, the independent examiner has written to the Council and suggested a halt in proceedings to allow for Consultation to be undertaken on a Non-Technical Summary of the Sustainability Appraisal, which will take place from 22 November with responses to be received by 6th January 2017. Market Lavington have now also been told they have to undertake a Housing Survey.

It seems that WC's advice is not up to date and PCs are now having to jump through legal hoops, the picture is changing all the time and getting bogged down in procedures. It is apparent that developers with big budgets will challenge decisions made in NPs.

In our case, the NP Steering Group members have diminished in number over the four years since it was set up, and on a practical level, CT and SG are no longer willing to continue with what appears to be an increasing workload when it was thought we were getting towards the end of the process.

It was decided that the full Steering Group should be informed of the situation at a meeting on **Wed 14 December** and they should decide the future of the Group and if the process should be stopped. The decision of the SGp would then be presented to the PC at their **January** meeting.

It was agreed CT to write a summary report to present to the SGp including copies of paperwork on the Henfield case.

CT

Also CT to contact Mike Gaiger and inform him of the forthcoming SGp meeting to consider the future of the SGp, and whether there was any progress with his ideas for a planning application.

CT

It should be stressed that all the work and consultations in the community already undertaken has shown clear public support for development on Site 9.

It will also be necessary to inform Vicky Burvill and WC of any decisions made regarding the future of our NP.

Meeting booked/confirmed Wed 14th December 2016 at 7.30pm in the Giles Room.