

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting notes
 Tuesday 26th February 2019, 7.00pm, Monteagle Centre

Present:

Richard Quarterman (Chair)
 Gill Gray
 Alison Hewitt
 Luke Buckland
 Paul Simpson
 Roger Coombes
 Gerry Crisp
 Gordon Young

Greg Easterbrook

John Keane

Colin Ive

Rochelle Halliday (Town Clerk)

Apologies:

Graham Cockarill

		<u>Action</u>
1.	<p>Welcome Apologies were received from Graham Cockarill. Gill Hennell, Beryl Jenkins, Shawn Dickens and Philip Todd were not in attendance.</p>	
2.	<p>Notes of the last meeting & matters arising The notes from the last meeting on Tuesday 11th December 2018 were agreed subject to the addition of Gerry Crisp to the list of attendees. There were no matters arising.</p>	
3.	<p>Introduction to Rochelle Halliday Introductions were made and Rochelle Halliday confirmed that she would attend and minute the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meetings.</p>	
4.	<p>Preparation for the Annual Town Meeting on 14th March 2019 The Annual Town Meeting is an opportunity to share progress and detail regarding the structure of the Neighbourhood Plan to the Council and public. The Steering Group would welcome and questions in order to validate their work so far and to test the broad concepts being researched. There was some discussion about the format of the presentation. If each of the five concepts are to be discussed fully, this could take two hours, which would be too long in addition to the usual business transacted at the Annual Town Meeting. The Steering Group are keen, however, to promote closer engagement with the Council and see the presentation as the ideal mechanism. Paul Simpson (responsible for researching Getting Around sub-group) confirmed that more information is required regarding the housing element of the Neighbourhood Plan as this will dictate infrastructure requirements. The uncertainties with the Local Plan also make the Neighbourhood Planning more difficult. Concerns were raised about the lack of general interest in Neighbourhood Planning that some Steering Group members experienced whilst conducting their research. This could be due to several factors, including the lack of the imminent threat of development.</p>	

A discussion took place regarding whether a Neighbourhood Plan is needed at all. It was agreed that producing a Neighbourhood Plan is still required in order to protect vulnerable areas from development and to document the desirable characteristics / aspirations of the town. Although the emerging Local Plan does not currently have any significant housing developments identified for Yateley town, whether this will remain to be the case following future Local Plan reviews of housing numbers is uncertain.

A suggestion was made to look at the town more holistically, rather than breaking down the areas for the Neighbourhood Plan into definable sub-groups. The Neighbourhood Plan is also intrinsically linked to the Local Plan and as such any firm decisions regarding content should await the initial Local Plan Examiner's report. It was also suggested that any review of the sub-groups should take place after the public have had an opportunity to comment.

The Steering Group discussed how best to expedite work on the Housing sub-group as so far this area does not appear to have made as much progress. A suggestion was made for the Housing and Open Spaces group to work together. **ACTION:** Richard Quarterman to review the Housing sub-group composition.

RQ

ACTION: Rochelle Halliday to publicise the Neighbourhood Plan website and Twitter details on the Yateley Community Facebook page.

RH

It was commented that the process of conducting the sub-group research has been largely positive, enabling connections to be made with the community and to learn more about community needs.

Annual Town Meeting Presentation

Richard Quarterman showed the Steering Group the draft presentation for the Annual Town Council meeting.

ACTION: Richard Quarterman to demo the website or incorporate web screenshots into the presentation. The imagery from the website should also be used in the presentation.

RQ

Open Spaces

Alison Hewitt talked through the Open Spaces sub-group research. Some elements of the presentation may not be incorporated into a final Neighbourhood Plan policy. Alison Hewitt suggested that the Council could prepare an environmental vision statement to fulfil the desire of the community to promote sustainable living and environmental awareness. Community partnerships could be formed to develop green infrastructure, which would encourage more walking and cycling within the town.

The Thames Basin Heaths Partnership may be able to supply a best practice template for the creation of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces, which the

	<p>Steering Group agreed would be a valuable document to include in the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p><u>Getting Around</u></p> <p>Paul Simpson shared the Getting Around research and presentation. A suggestion was made to highlight the need for improved cycling and walking infrastructure should any further development take place in the town.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Annual Town Meeting presentation should be a more general update by Richard Quarterman to include details of the Getting Around and Open Spaces sub-group presentations. One hour will be allocated at the Annual Town Meeting for the presentations.</p> <p>ACTION: Alison Hewitt and Paul Simpson to send their presentations to Richard Quarterman to finalise the Annual Town Meeting presentation.</p> <p>Colin Ive left the meeting at 8.30pm.</p>	AH/PS/RQ
5.	<p>News and Publicity</p> <p>In view of current progress, it was agreed to defer discussion on items 5 – 7 to the next meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting should be scheduled just after the Annual Town Meeting for late March / early April.</p>	
6.	<p>Meetings in 2019</p> <p>Not discussed.</p>	
7.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Not discussed.</p>	

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.