

## **MODBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP (MNPG)**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016 20:00- 22:00 at the Exeter Inn**

**Present:** Ann Turner (AT) Chair, Barry White (BWh), Charlotte Rathbone (CR), Phil Jolly (PJ) Treasurer, Andy Rathbone (AR), Lynne Barnes (LB), Chris Barnes (CB) Parish Councillor, Alison Wood (AW) Minutes.

**Apologies:** Mark Lawrence, Burda Gage, Roy Sims, Brian, Weeks, Daniel Turner, Tim Beavon, Jon Sullivan.

Ann Turner welcomed Alan Storah, South Hams District Council (SHDC) support officer, for Neighbourhood Plan groups, who had come to advise on the Local Plan developments and our consultation process

#### **1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING:**

- The minutes of the last meeting were agreed by those who were present and will be forwarded by AW to the Parish Clerk, Sacha Hagar.

#### **2. PRELIMINARY REPORT ON MAY/JUNE CONSULTATIONS:**

- AT circulated a draft of some of the data that she and Neil (Turner) had collated from recent information collected from consultations at May Fair events, Health Centre display and suggestion boxes. AT said that they would go on to put this collated data into an interim report. She expressed that she had hoped to have had the report by the time of this meeting but with the time constraints of her own work commitments, this had not been possible.
- AT asked LB in her role as editor of the Modbury Messenger if a summary of the interim report could be put in the next edition. LB advised that 2 pages could be available.

#### **3. ALAN STORAH SHDC SUPPORT OFFICER: ADVICE ON LOCAL PLAN DEVELOPMENTS AND THE CONSULTATION PROCESS OF MNPG.**

- Alan Storah (AS), informed the group that his current job with SHDC was coming to an end, but that there would be continued support for Neighbourhood plan Groups from SHDC, but he could not confirm who this would be. He suggested that finding out this could be one of the questions Neighbourhood Plan Groups could ask at imminent consultation meetings with SHDC.
- AS advised that Land Use and Planning issues needed to be kept distinct from other aspirations in a Neighbourhood Plan. Indicating the robust, expert evidence needed to back up Land Use and Planning Policy.
- AS spoke about the Joint Local Plan: Plymouth City Council, South Hams Council and West Devon Borough Council working together to prepare the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan. It was his opinion that this was a very good process for all involved. Plymouth wants to grow, with development on its edges. Development not catered for in Plymouth will therefore be less, which means that the numbers of houses in South Hams and West Devon will probably be reduced which is probably what those communities would wish for.
- The number of houses will be known on July 1<sup>st</sup>, after which there will be a 6 week consultation period (i.e. until 12<sup>th</sup> August). AS considered that probably exact figures for each town, village would not be detailed rather the numbers for a broad area. Without the consultation it would be a “mechanical” exercise without regard to the nature of communities.

### 3. ALAN STORAH SHDC SUPPORT OFFICER (continued)

- AS emphasised the need to substantiate recommendations with evidence. Public opinion not enough, needed to be supported by technical/expert/ professional studies. Problems would be encountered when there is a mismatch between Public Opinion and technical surveys. (E.g. a hypothetical town might have strong public opinion about speed of traffic on a particular road but if Highways Dept. survey showed no evidence of problems, a change in speed would not be implemented.)
- CR expressed that it seemed that we would need to employ a planner to continue with the process, which was not likely to be financially viable.
- CB spoke of feeling that the process was being driven by SHDC.
- There was general discussion about the amount of work (voluntary) that had gone into consultations and some disappointment that this would not stand up unless backed up by “expert” evidence which could be costly.
- AS stated that it might appear a bleak picture, but that Neighbourhood Plan Groups needed to formulate questions before consultations with SHDC and challenge if they were not satisfied with the answers they received.
- AT asked what was most helpful for us to do to make our process robust.
- AS spoke of the need for quantitative as well as qualitative evidence such as has been provided by our consultation events with the local community.
- BWh spoke of planning authorities being weak, citing the RA1 development where the developers had put in plans to extend the number of houses that were originally agreed. The Planning authority then did not seem to be prepared / able to foot the costs of challenging the developers.
- LB asked AS if a questionnaire had closed questions whether that would stand up as quantitative evidence.
- BWh raised the point that the questionnaire should include all members of a household to reflect the views of all residents.
- AT spoke of decisions needing to be made about what aspects of the Neighbourhood plan process we do ourselves (i.e. using the voluntary expertise of the group and wider community) and what we pay for.
- It was felt that a number of people had expertise and experience in compiling questionnaires. Aspects that might need to be paid for would be the analysis of data and most importantly putting the analysis into a policy/plan.
- AS advised that the NPG should contact his successor to help steer the process once the data had been collected.
- AT emphasised that Neighbourhood Plan Groups would expect support from SHDC because it had been promised at the beginning of the process.
- AS spoke of Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans having to have regard to national policy.
- CB raised the point, going back to questionnaires. Should the questionnaire be validated by SHDC before it is distributed?
- AT asked what weight would validation by SHDC carry.
- AS spoke of SHDC being able to give guidance and opinion.
- LB asked if AS could provide the group with examples of good questionnaires and bad questionnaires.
- AS said he would endeavour to find some to send to the group.
- AS emphasised that a major task for NPGs was to make the plan in accordance with the Local Plan.
- AT spoke about the timetable of the consultation period on local plan being at short notice, beginning on July 1st. Also the dates for SHDC consultations had not yet been provided.

### **3. ALAN STORAH SHDC SUPPORT OFFICER (continued)**

- AS said that the plan was likely to be adopted in the spring of 2017. He advised that the recommendations after the consultation would carry more weight if they were submitted by the Parish Council.
- AT confirmed that this would be the case, as the NPG works under the auspices of the Parish Council reporting to them on a regular basis.
- CB advised that at the moment scheduled Parish Council meetings were on July 11<sup>th</sup> and August 8<sup>th</sup>. Suggesting that NPG convene about 1 month after 1<sup>st</sup> July to then be able to feedback to Parish Council
- CR asked if Open Spaces Sports and Recreation(OSSR) surveys/ questionnaires were included
- AS confirmed that this was the case if they were evidenced.
- AW raised a query that the dates that had been circulated for meetings in Plymouth indicated that these were training rather than consultation.
- AS read the e-mail that had been sent to AT with these dates, and said he was not clear on what these events entailed and would make enquiries and update the NPG once he had found out more.

### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT (Phil Jolly)**

- No further expenditure since the last meeting therefore the balance available remains at £553.73
- An application for funding was submitted to Locality on 20<sup>th</sup> June, as agreed at the last meeting. This is for 6 months to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 and is for a total of £4,270.00. The application was agreed at the June Parish Council Meeting and was signed by Mark Lawrence on their behalf. If approved the start date for the grant will be 20<sup>th</sup> July and the money cannot be spent until then. Our thanks to Tim Beavon and Mark Lawrence for their skill and patience during this process.
- 3 tenders for the position of website administrator were received by the 31<sup>st</sup> May deadline. A recommendation was then made to the Parish Council who considered all three at the June meeting. The Council decided to appoint Dan Turner, who has done all work to date on a pro-bono basis. The contract is for 10 hours per month at £12 per hour and will start when we have funds from Locality. All applicants have been advised of the outcome and Dan has been told his bid was successful but that the contract cannot start until we receive funding.
- It was made clear to the Parish Council that as Ann Turner had a declared interest she took no part in the tender process.
- AT. Thanked PJ for his work. PJ reiterated the appreciation of the hard work of Mark Lawrence and Tim Beavon in the completing the application for Locality funding.

### **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS;**

- AT thanked Alan Storah for attending the meeting and for his advice and information.
- AS said he had been his intention to make the NPG aware of the pitfalls that can occur in the process of creating a Neighbourhood Plan, so that the group can try to avoid these. He also expressed that preparing a Neighbourhood Plan without a Local Plan in place was challenging.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

**N.B. DIFFERENT DAY OF THE WEEK AND LOCATION THAN HAS BEEN USUAL.**

**TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY AT 8PM IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, MEETING ROOM**

AW :21.07.201

AW 24.06