

**Sandy Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**  
**Thursday 6 July 2023 at 7.30pm**  
**Sandy Town Council Chamber, 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Nigel Aldis, Anne Elliott-Flockhart, Joanna Hewitt (Chair), Anthony Lock, Ruth Lock and Chris Patterson.

**Apologies:** Rob Baker, Richard Barlow, Sally Chapman and Arnie Gilpin.

**Not present:** Jennifer Ivanciu-Wilkinson and Lorraine Ivanciu - Wilkinson.

**1. Resignations and membership**

The **Chair** informed members that Anne Ramsay has had to leave the group, due to work commitments.

The **Chair** will check in with Jennifer and Lorraine to see if they still want to be on the group.

The **Chair** will contact Sue Bell to see in what capacity she would like to sit on the group as per the minutes from the last meeting.

The **Chair** will check in with Lewis Headly who has expressed an interest in joining the group and let him know the date of the next meeting.

The **Chair** will also speak to the newest members of the Town Council to see if any of them would be interested in joining the group.

**2. Approval of Minutes from 7 June 2023**

The minutes were approved.

### **3. Sandy Town Centre Improvement Study (TTC)**

Chris reported that there were no further updates on this. However, he noted, that we have said we want to consult with local businesses, and we need to set a venue and date for this. Arnie has offered to deliver the invitations, but someone needs to design some sort of invitation for him to deliver.

Venues were discussed and it was decided to hold the consultation at the Council offices as they are central and free for the group to use.

Times were discussed as these would need to suit business owners. It was felt that it might be good to have a display which could be on offer from 4pm-8pm with a rota for members to cover, as this would hopefully allow enough flexibility for business owners.

### **4. Aecom**

#### **a) SP Masterplan**

Chris reported that the SP masterplan report is now done and needs to go to Sandy Town Council for sign off.

The next full Town Council meeting is 7 August, so we have one month to tidy the document up.

Nigel asked if it would be possible to get a PowerPoint presentation for this. **Chris** will ask.

#### **b) Design Guide**

Chris has forwarded all the comments he has received to Aecom. There is still a bit of time for those who haven't yet commented to have their say. Aecom will take these on board and adjust the document.

## **5. Green Infrastructure Plan**

The **Chair** will circulate the latest version and asked that members let her have the comments returned by Monday.

She noted that the map for Sandye Place is wrong in the local green space document and she has made a note of this to report back to BRCC.

This document will go to Town Council at a meeting of the Community, Services & Environment committee on 17 July before going to the Full Town Council meeting on 7 August.

## **6. Sally Chapman**

The Chair reported that Sally is keeping an eye out on the locality website for the start date of the next round of funding.

Chris noted that the website is saying the next window of funding is not open yet.

Chris, asked about the finances of the group as at the last meeting it was noted that the group shouldn't incur any big expenses. It was clarified that this was more to do with the grant funding for the town centre. We still have some earmarked locality funding which needs to be drawn down at some point.

A member wanted to check with Sally about who we need to consult with regarding the Design code.

## **7. Engagement**

### **a) Carnival feedback**

As Rob was unable to attend due to transport issues, we were unable to discuss the findings from the carnival engagement.

Nigel noted that there were lots of comments about the access to SP via Swansholme Gardens but there was strong support for using the site for community benefit.

There was one comment about the children from St Swithun's school being able to access the Church via the SP site which would be safer than walking along the High Street. It was noted that there would have been a gate from the site to the church for the family at the mansion house. However, this was a question for the diocese.

Some staff from Allison House were concerned that a care home on the site would mean they would lose their jobs. Members didn't think this would be the case as CBC has an obligation to provide a care home in the town and presumably, they would have the opportunity to work there. But this is not a NP issue, at the moment the document is a concept and not set in stone.

It was noted that CBC are trying to develop a culture policy which the SP site could fit into.

## **b) Engagement opportunities**

The following dates have been identified as opportunities for engagement.

- **Community Fun Day – 15 July**  
Not enough members would be available for this date.
- **Skatejam – September**  
This was mostly attended by people from other towns last year, so it was felt that it would not be useful to attend again.
- **Market – October**  
This event is a potential opportunity.
- **Christmas Lights – 3 December**  
The group would attend this event if only to keep the group in the public eye.

We can decide nearer the time about what we would like to present or consult on at these events.

**8. Timeline**

It was felt that this is now in Sally's hands.

**9. Any other business**

It was noted that there was an EWR consultation at Tempsford Village Hall on the following day – Friday 7 July if members were interested in attending.

**10. Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 17 August 2023 at 7.30pm at Sandy Town Council.