**Sandy Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

**Thursday 23rd February 2023 at 7.30pm**

**Sandy Town Council Chamber, 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Nigel Aldis, Rob Baker, Sally Chapman, Anne Elliott-Flockhart, Arnie Gilpin, Joanna Hewitt (Chair), Anthony Lock, Ruth Lock, Chris Patterson and Anne Ramsay.

**Apologies:** RichardBarlow**,** Jennifer Ivanciu-Wilkinson and Lorraine Ivanciu-Wilkinson.

1. **Approval of minutes from 19th January 2023**

The minutes were approved.

1. **Sandy Town Centre Improvement Study (TTC)**

Chris explained that the TTC report had gone to a meeting of Sandy Town Council on 23rd January. The councillors gave constructive feedback which TTC will take on board. We are expecting the updated report in the next few weeks. It was noted that the minutes for the Council meeting are on the Council website if anyone wishes to view them.

The group will need to review the updated report and if happy with it then it will go back to STC for endorsement.

A member asked if we should consult with CBC about this and another asked if we should be consulting with shopkeepers or the people that use the buses for their views.

Sally noted that the group will need to think about how it markets the report to present it as an opportunity.

1. **AECOM**

A few members of the group had met with AECOM to discuss the SP masterplan and the design guide.

1. **SP Masterplan**

Chris had forwarded the information requested from AECOM such as the results from consultations and the leisure working group minutes. They also would like the results from the Green Infrastructure Plan consultations. **Anne** **R** will ask BRCC to forward this information to us.

AECOM did a little exercise during the visit to see what was important to members of the group.

They have sent over a draft template for the report which Chris had circulated ahead of the meeting. **All** **members** to review and let Chris know if there is anything obvious missing from it.

There are two options mentioned one with housing and one without housing. It was noted that most residents would not wish to see housing on the site, but it was also noted that some housing might be needed to offset the cost of keeping the rest of the site in community use.

Sally noted that we will be including a policy on the SP site that will refer to the masterplan. It is important to emphasise the site context and constraints.

The Chair noted that since the last meeting the SP site has been released from educational use by the DfE. CBC have stated that they realise a NP is being drawn up for Sandy and that they will take this into consideration when deciding what to do with the site. They are also aware that the NP group are in the process of designating the green space at SP. They have noted that as the site is in a conservation area no demolition would take place without permission. And that as the site belongs to CBC any applications would go to the full committee and not be decided by planning officers. It was also noted that no consultation will take place for the site until after the elections in May.

The CBC ward councillors are preparing a Q&A document to be released to the public over the weekend and had asked the Chair if the group had any questions they would like answered.

The group would like answers to the following questions:

1. What is the status of the hall – can it be retained for public events?
2. Can the field be retained for public use?
3. Will the green space be retained and protected?
4. What buildings are listed and can they be retained?
5. Will these buildings be repaired and properly maintained?
6. Can the sundial be moved to a more prominent place?
7. Will the protected views be maintained?
8. Will the avenue of Lime Trees be protected?
9. What is going to happen to the classroom buildings?
10. Will a premises for the youth club be retained?
11. For historical importance will the tunnels be investigated before demolition takes place? Will the results be made public?
12. Can the summerhouse building near to Swansholme Gardens be retained?
13. Will the public have permanent access to the green space?
14. When will people be able to access the site?
15. Are there any plans to build on the site?
16. Will there be an opportunity for residents to visit the site before the buildings are demolished?
17. Could pedestrian access be improved once the green space has been designated?
18. Will there be a bridge from the site to Sandcaste wood to link up with the green wheel?
19. Will the river frontage be improved with a riverside walk and benches?
20. Will parking be provided for access to the green space and community facilities, including disabled parking?

It was noted that we still need a list of non-designated assets, **Richard** had undertaken to do this.

It was noted that there has been some water damage to the mansion house and that there are plans to put temporary fencing around the buildings.

1. **Design Code**

Arnie reported that Richard and himself had come up with a list of 27 different design areas within Sandy. AECOM have this list and will look to reduce it down to around 11.

They will come up with a design guide that will cover opportunity sites and extensions.

Members asked if they could cover shop frontages and signage.

1. **GIP**

Anne R reported that she had met with Anne EF, Joanna and Mike from BRCC to go through the action list for the GIP. The aim was to designate lead partners, partners, resourcing, timescales, and next steps for each aspiration.

Mike is currently updating the action list. Once the report is complete it will need to be endorsed by the group and the TC.

A member asked when the designated spaces report will be finished. **Anne** **R** will liaise with BRCC to find out.

Mike had asked if the group had any pictures of the green space at SP. **Anthony** mentioned he might have and will send them across.

1. **Sally Chapman**

Sally noted that the group is making good progress.

Sally had brought an example of a design guide by AECOM for members to have a look at.

Sally noted that we need to think about mapping, she will see if CBC or BRCC can help. We can get a grant to cover the cost of this.

1. **Timeline**

Chris will update the timeline to reflect where we are up to and what we still must do.

1. **Engagement Opportunities**

The following community events could provide engagement opportunities:

Saturday 15 April – Community Fun Day

Sunday 23 April – Spring Market

Sunday 7 May – Coronation Big Lunch

Saturday 10 June - Carnival

It was noted that members that were councillors might not be able to take part in any engagement during purdah. We will need to decide whether we need to consult on anything or if we want to share information on the process so far.

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

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 30 March 2023 at 7.30pm at Sandy Town Council.