

**MINUTES OF THE CHICHESTER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD
ON FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 6.00PM**

PRESENT: Councillor Richard Plowman, Planning Adviser Anna Whitty, Hugo Frey, Bob Mousley, Paula Chatfield, Peter Evans, Stuart Hopkins, Martin Trundle

- 1 Cllr Plowman as Chairman welcomed the attendees and read apologies for those absent. Attendees introduced themselves.
- 2 The Chairman explained the reasoning behind making a Chichester Neighbourhood Plan at this time with the current challenges of climate change, decline of the traditional high street, aspirations of carbon neutrality, the ongoing Local Plan review, the physical constraints of the locality between the South Downs National Park (SDNP) to the north and the Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to the south necessitating the channelling of a large proportion of the area's development requirements in the area between, the Southern Gateway and its potential opportunities and the allocated housing requirements due to increase Chichester's population substantially.
- 3 The Chairman stressed that this was a Plan for the people and by the people. It would be a blueprint for a Chichester which serves as a good place to live, work, socialise and enjoy. It is an opportunity to create a holistic cohesive plan for the future. Once adopted, the Plan will have equal weight to the Local Plan, as it will form part of the Development Plan for the area.
- 4 The Chairman explained the remit of the Steering Group and terms of reference were agreed by members.
- 5 Peter Evans asked what finance is available for the Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman explained that a proportion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), paid by developers for each dwelling constructed, goes to Chichester City Council and this can be used for Neighbourhood Plan preparation. There is also the possibility of a grant of £7,000 from the government.
- 6 Stuart Hopkins asked about the timeline for adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman said that we would be aiming for a draft Neighbourhood Plan around the third quarter next year with a view to adoption by mid-year 2021.
- 7 Hugo Frey suggested that the committee have a member representing the hospital. Members agreed this was a good idea. The Chairman said he would look into this and said that the committee also needed a member representing the east of the city. Paula Chatfield offered to look into this.
- 8 Stuart Hopkins asked whether additional members might also be needed to represent the arts, for example someone from the theatre and/or Pallant House Gallery. Hugo Frey said that Colin Hicks was from an arts and culture background and would represent this area well. The Chairman confirmed that he had had meetings with stakeholders such as Pallant House and the theatre as well as Goodwood, Rolls Royce, the Cathedral and the Museum but that the number of members of the Steering Group must be kept to a manageable number to ensure the functionality of the group.

- 9 Stuart Hopkins expressed that arts and culture is so important for the city, which members agreed. The chairman stated that one of the opportunities of the Southern Gateway development would be to have a large venue for concerts, events and conferences which would have a capacity of 500-1,000 and flexibility of use.
- 10 The Chairman stated that Rolls Royce may lead a working group on electric cars. Goodwood and other landowners may provide tree planting land to offset Chichester's carbon output.
- 11 Peter Evans asked whether some types of tree are better than others for carbon offset. Paula Chatfield confirmed that this was the case and that some types of tree are better for carbon offset, some are better for biodiversity, some are more resilient in terms of climate change impacts, some are better suited to more or less water availability. There is likely a DEFRA guide on this issue. Bob Mousley suggested there should be a Chichester arboretum.
- 12 The Chairman said that we needed to know what we already have in terms of trees. There is a website, Environmental Insight, which may be helpful in this regard as it can estimate carbon output from an aerial photo by assessing tree coverage, building and road coverage. Paula Chatfield advised that the work on the tree summit may also be helpful in this, and a tree audit may take place next year.
- 13 The Chairman advised that next meeting would likely be in early January. Items to be included on the next agenda are working groups, Jane Hotchkiss from CDC would present an item on the Vision, local architect Greg Froggart would present an item about developing city centres for the future, the planning adviser would update members on the consultation outcomes.
- 14 Anna Whitty asked Hugo Frey if university students could be made aware of the current consultation, due to close on 9 December. Hugo Frey confirmed he may be able to arrange for an email to be sent to all students and an event to be held with the student union.
- 15 Bob Mousley advised he would arrange to meet with Anna Whitty to put forward some thoughts for potentially optimising the city centre.
- 16 Meeting closed at 7.10pm.