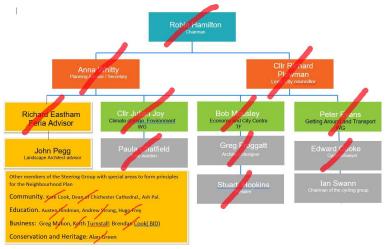
# Chichester Neighbourhood Plan Time Line and Critical Issues

# Informal Speaking Notes to Planning and Conservation Committee Chichester City Council. John Pegg 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Longest involvement in the Neighbourhood Plan process firstly as a paid design consultant working to a specific brief from the CC, then as a part of the "expert group" then finally as part of the Steering group.



### Initial period - Cllr Plowman

- The City Council provided in house facilitation and external professional support from Feria.
- The breadth of input/group was extremely broad collection of interested individuals (50+)
- The group mission was ambiguous and open to many interpretations.
- NP was conflated with the parallel, but separate, "Town Centre Task Force" priorities.

# Second Phase - Cllr Plowman/Robin Hamilton

- Internal disagreements within the City Council resulted in the loss of officer facilitation and admin. The expectation of facilitation continued
- The professional advisor also stood down from the contract.
- Richard Plowman resigned the chair to ensure the NP was seen to be a community, rather than City Council, led initiative.
- Robin Hamilton's tenure was brief and restructuring of SG opaque.

## Third Phase - Ash Pal

- AP was asked to take over.
- City Council facilitation not replaced, District Council officer engagement was negative.
- Smaller group but attendance and input was generally weak and inconsistent.
- Local Plan was published absent meaningful Parish wide content.
- "Chichester Vision" document recognised as inadequate to the Local Plan task.
- Deficiencies in PLACE methodology recognised for the scale of the City and absence of population in key areas.
- Strategies drafted for testing and discussion.
- Recognition that "Built Out" context requires positive strategies for land recycling.
- Local Plan reps submitted (para 19)
- Housing allocation requirement for the NP was an ambiguous issue.
- Alignment with Local Plan timing stopped/slowed progress.

#### Fourth Phase - Ash Pal

- Apparent fundamental disagreement between CC Officer on one side and SG + professional advisor on the other, regarding the scope of the NP.
- Gala presentation objected to and neutered by City Officers.
- Misattribution of expenses to the current Steering Group.
- Misrepresentation of SG position at P & C Committee.

### **Key Issues**

- 1 Absence of meaningful City proposals within the Local Plan.
- 2 Inadequacy of "Chichester Vision" for a 15 year plan.
- 3 NP is a suitable bandage for absence of meaningful Local plan (draft) content, but shouldn't have to be.
- 4 District and City Councils required to facilitate and brief the NP.
- 5 Recognition the majority that much of the expense incurred by the NP to date has been poorly directed;
  - a, Internal salary expense top slice.
  - b, Weak Consultant brief (could PLACE ever have dealt with the City)
  - c, Stantec Report
  - d, Dissemination of craft:pegg work.
- 6 P & C Committee should be fully briefed on NP content to date, update with changes of membership.
- 7 District and City Planning Officers should facilitate the NP process by briefing and providing text and maps.
- 8 An alternative Supplementary Planning Document may be more effective than an NP.
- 9 Be open and aware of conflicts of interests which may compromise process (projects and personalities).
- 10 You are now beginning, and are responsible for, Phase 5.