



WEST HOATHLY PARISH COUNCIL

representing Highbrook, Selsfield, Sharpthorne, Tyes Cross and West Hoathly

Neighbourhood Plan Task Force Meeting Thursday 25th March 2014 in Sharpthorne Church Hall

Attendees

Ken Allfree, John Cull, John Downe, Sylvia Downe, Keith Faricy, Neil Greatorex, Anne Halligey, Andrew Perkins, Lesley Perkins, Stephen Sykes, Melvyn Willie

Also attending:

Helen Schofield
Chris Bowden (Navigus)

Purpose

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the draft Sustainability Appraisal assessment criteria that would be used to assess the different sites put forward as part of the Call for Sites II within the Neighbourhood Plan process.

Declarations of Interest

The personal interests put forward at the meeting on 6th March were still relevant. Mr Cull declared an interest as a member of the Sharpthorne Community Action Group. Mr Greatorex noted that he lived in Broadfield (this was not noted in the notes of 6th March).

Sustainability Assessment Criteria

Chris Bowden had looked at the MSDC Draft District Plan sustainability objectives, the objectives in the draft West Hoathly Neighbourhood Plan and identified a set of criteria for assessing sites against. These criteria needed to be agreed by the Task Force.

The use of the criteria is a mechanism for eliminating some sites but is unlikely to identify only one appropriate site.

No one criterion "trumps" the others. They are a mix of economic, social and environmental criteria and all need to be taken in to account.

No-one had any fundamental issues with the approach. The criteria were reviewed and some changes were made (none substantive).

It was agreed to still consider sites on the basis of 4 or more houses needing to include affordable housing. However the Task Force needed to be mindful that the current MSDC Local Plan and the current central government consultation have thresholds of 15 and 10 respectively.

It was agreed that each criterion would be assessed as highly positive, positive, neutral, negative, highly negative.

Alongside each assessment there will need to be a commentary that puts the assessment into context.

Chris Bowden was asked if he could provide an independent view on which sites would be considered Previously Developed Land (Brownfield).

Next steps

Options were considered as to how to carry out the assessments

- Chris Bowden to undertake an initial assessment which can then be considered by the Task Force
- The Task Force to carry out the assessments as a group
- Different people to look at the different sites

The Task Force agreed to ask Chris Bowden to carry out an initial assessment to bring to the next Task Force meeting. It was felt that he would carry out the assessment in a consistent, objective way.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 24th April at 7:30pm, venue to be confirmed.