

## Neighbourhood Plan Meeting

01/09/2022

In Attendance: Caroline Rackham, Matt Kangarani, Lin Francis, Susan Compton, Ken Farleigh, Christine Farleigh, Leslie Edwards, Katherine Fitz Herbert Green, Jenna Phillips, Amy Hardingson

Apologies: Steve Shepherd, Neville Penman & Derek Biggs

Meeting Start: 19.05

### **Overview**

- Discussion of 4 areas of Neighbourhood Plan – Design Framework, Active Travel, Green Areas and Town Centre
- Update on the NFDC led Town Centre Regeneration
- Planning the upcoming consultation events on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October

### **Action Points**

- Caroline to send out Richard's PowerPoint
- Caroline to get posters printed for consultation events
- Amy to update website
- Amy to produce online consultation
- Chris and Susan to do social media promotion

### **Transcript of meeting**

Caroline: To begin with a recap, we've boiled things in our Neighbourhood Plan down to 4 areas including the town centre.

The NFDC commissioned Town Centre Regeneration plan team has been in contact with us. They have the report which Richard has done and have had a series of talks with Neighbourhood Plan team members

Jenna: The Town council hasn't had a chance to speak to them yet

Caroline: Claire Upton Brown is hoping to speak to lots of people from the town, but I'm not sure how that fits with the town council and the consultant. They will take that away and assess what people have said. It sounds like everything will tie up nicely with all our work, it's all gelling

together. The town needs a proper centre, turning things around to face the park, we need more combined building – not just community and commercial – we need residential above to support. So that covers town centre matters

ACTION – CAROLINE TO EMAIL OUT RICHARD'S Powerpoint

Matt: How far have NFDC progressed?

Caroline: A lot of the consultation work has happened and they are now coming up with a plan to go to the planning dept and this will go to NFDC with proper drawn up plans.

Susan: Consultation finishes tomorrow I think

Caroline: They have been quite thorough, they have a lot of material to go through. I'm optimistic that the plan will be similar to what we've been coming up with as well.

Matt: I'm not surprised as we've been consulting with local people for a long time

Caroline: Other areas – the Bartley River and getting that conservation status, also the cycling and walking ideas – looking at paths that can take people into the town centre & LC Whip has happened at the same time. Richard has fed into the local cycling and infrastructure plan which should help us get better conditions for traveling in the town.

Ken: Hopefully keeping cyclists and walkers separate

Caroline: Wider provision makes a huge difference

Ken: We had a separate cycling lane on Salisbury road once

Caroline: I don't know if Salisbury road will be improved but perhaps alternative paths would work just as well

Leslie: So many people cycle on the pavements – it's very narrow

Katherine: The blue cycle signs are right in the middle and that causes confusion

Lin: People parking on pavements is also a huge hazard

Susan: such an issue for Buggies

Lin: I had a copy of letters sent out today, and they are talking about stopping people mounting kerbs with their cars, but what people will do

with their cars I don't know. A lot of these places were built with hardly any pavement.

Ken: and we don't want parking on the verges because they get churned up

Caroline: I think the answer is to do more with the green spaces that we do have, and then take away some of the other green spaces to use for parking. To increase the biodiversity with certain areas is much better than plain grass and we can create extra parking

Katherine: Southampton is doing that – creating extra parking to encourage people away from the verges

Caroline: We have 12000 more cars than households

Lin: It has to be solved somehow

Christine: Some places have a white line that people can park up to without blocking the pavement adversely

Leslie: The other issue is school parking because both parents work these days, or two different schools for different children

Caroline: Potentially the regeneration plan could take some of the parking concerns into account.

*Short discussion about: Lack of parking for schools, paid parking in NFDC car parks is another cost for those who don't want to park on pavement. £30 a year for short term parking. You can get a long clock but we don't have any longterm parking spaces.*

Caroline: Parking isn't really something we're looking at currently

Leslie: But if you want to regenerate you need to have provision for parking

Caroline: There's a constant thing about building flats with no parking in the centre of Totton. We've commented on it before, and we can continue to comment on our lack of public transport which means this is not feasible.

Susan: The problem will come with those houses at Calmore because you can't walk to the centre from there

Caroline: Going back to the Neighbourhood Plan document - the 4<sup>th</sup> area is particular areas of ground and making suggestions as to what could go in those sites. That's something we need to look at. But for the consultation event we need to be gathering what sorts of facilities people want to have and then we can look and see at what could go where. Those are ones that

Richard has found that are up for development at the moment or where development fell through recently in the past.

*Discussion of underground parking, but problem with the water table and flood risk here makes the cost far too high and makes affordable housing unviable. Having car parking in a multistory is another option but again has difficulties*

Caroline: What we've said is that around the park we want to keep that slightly lower

Susan: A lot of younger people aren't getting cars to the same extent that we did

Lin: The change with the cost of living may change things

Caroline: so many people don't have a choice about whether they work from home or if they can get public transport. Public transport needs to be subsidized to make it affordable

Lin: Petrol and parking is getting more expensive. There may be a change coming. Lots of youngsters on bikes.

Caroline: We need to deal with what we've got right now, and right now we have so many more cars than we have space.

Lin: it would be so much better if we had a park and ride

Katherine: Totton isn't big enough to sustain it

Christine: When they trialed a direct bus to hospital it wasn't used enough and they dropped the service

Caroline: Anyway, those are the 4 main areas that we have in the plan. On the Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October we have a consultation in Totton and Eling Community Centre, and on the Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October we have one in Hounslow hall 4-7pm .

The big question is what do we want to do at the consultation events? One thing I would like to do is to present what we've done with the last results of consultation and results of Richard's work. We also need to find out what facilities people want, gauge interest in Bartley park... the cycling and walking is sort of under control with NFDC. What would be good would be if NFDC could get involved and have them cover consultation on the town centre and transport.

Susan: I picked up a leaflet which implied that the plan is a political thing. My concern is we aren't engaging with the general population who won't engage because they think it's political

Caroline: I engage with lots of people

Leslie: Perhaps we need to publicise the meetings

Caroline: These meetings we need to move on with a core of people rather than going over everything from scratch, but we need to push the consultation events to everyone.

*Frustrations on lack of involvement of town council in regeneration plans*

Caroline: Anyway, so. What do we want to do at the Consultation events? Firstly – who can come and help?

Matt: What are we getting across?

Caroline: Support for Bartley Water + ideas, Suggestions on cycling routes

Matt: I'm concerned that the town centre regeneration consultation has already happened

Caroline: We need to get more evidence for the things that we want to happen – the areas that are in local plan. We need general views about facilities.

Matt: We need a list of what we already have so people don't ask for things we already have, we need to know what we want on top of what we have.

Caroline: These areas could become parks or wildlife areas

Matt: there should be a presentation about what we have so people can comment accurately

**1<sup>st</sup> availability – Susan, Leslie, Caroline, Amy. Try to time it to match up with dance school parents hanging around 11ish onwards.**

**14<sup>th</sup> availability – Lin, Christine, Ken, Caroline, Leslie**

Promotion – social media (Chris, Susan), banner (Caroline), flyers + posters (Richard) – ready from mid September and distributed

Lin: We need to encourage people to be less staid

Susan: I think younger people are very up for change, the trouble is they aren't being engaged with

*Returning to the problem of a gap in what people know we have, and what we actually have. Issues with lack of signage that informs people of what is here.*

***Question about annual town report not being done for a few years since pre covid***

Christine: Consulting on all the clubs which are on & we can provide leaflets of different events that are on

Caroline: Rushington residents association 21<sup>st</sup> September I will be talking to them about the Neighbourhood Plan. I'll let people know the details when I get them. ACTION – EMAIL OUT INFO

Christine: What activities will we do?

Caroline: We need to ask what people feel is missing in Totton. The other thing is the Art Officer from NFDC who is looking at helping with community events and would like a corner for community events and arts.

*All pro this idea*

The other thing is showing people where we are with plans and getting feedback

Amy: Could have a online survey link to give out as well as pen and paper to collect views

*Amy to create online survey to use at the events ,or use website and put Richard's report up and create way for people to give online feedback*

Christine: Is it worth getting this in the Echo?

Caroline: Yes

Susan: And Lymington Times

Caroline: AOB

Amy: Updates to website needed – include PR bits we need to fix i.e. that this is funded through separate pot of money. Opportunity to get extra money for the town, not council tax.

Caroline: We need more funding to finalise final bits. We need funding to pay Richard for any extra work

Matt: Funds from council are gone?

Caroline: Yes? One option is to try the Town Council and ask for funding, or to apply outside the council to a fund for Neighbourhood Plans.

Jenna: How much will it cost?

Caroline: It will depend on the consultation event because if the consultation is very positive then we are almost done, but if we get negative feedback then we'll need to do a lot more work.

Leslie: How much are we paying for the advertising?

Caroline: Hall hires have been waived. I need to look into sourcing some money for posters

Matt: Money from town centre regeneration fund?

Caroline: No we can't access that. But the government has these funds set aside for Neighbourhood Plans

Christine: But we need to do the consultation events first to get the funding

Caroline: We'd be in a better position if we did first

*Developers contributions can fund all sorts. That's how Hanger Farm started. Why the annual booklet is so important, and why we need more people to know what is here.*

*Council charges and value for money. Are our amenities open to all or only select few who are in the know? What percentage of people are able to use the facilities.*

*Cost of living crisis and thinking about making sure there are things that are free that people can access.*

End of meeting: 20.27