

Minutes of the meeting of Hungerford 2036 project team held on Wednesday 21st July 2021 at 7pm in the Library, Hungerford

Present – Chris Scorey (CS), Tony Drewer-Trump (Co-chair), Cllr John Downe (JD) (Co-chair), Town Clerk, Cllr Claire Winsor, Denise Gaines, Cllr Ellie Yakar-Wells, Cllr Rupert Mills

1. **Note apologies** – Cllr Richard Hudson, Steve Bickell, Cllr Helen Simpson (Mayor)
2. **Review actions from minutes of 13th May 2021, update on actions from last meeting, not included in the agenda** – Minutes were agreed.

Previous actions: SB to contact West Berks Council (WBC) for info on their strategy for low carbon. SB not present. JD advised WBC has issued a revised version of their Environment strategy delivery plan. JD has been in touch with the business manager at JOG school. The issue of a direct entrance to the school from the Bewley development is unresolved. Laila provided the map graphics for the public consultation. WBC completed the HELAA assessment on HUN18 and concluded it was not developable within the next 15 years. It was previously rejected on appeal. WBC should advise the promotor and the Clerk has asked that this be done.

3. **Public Consultation On Potential Housing Sites**

- i. **Physical Consultation sessions to date** – 2 sessions in the Corn Exchange have taken place.
- ii. **Responses received - online and from sessions** - Approx. 100 responses to sites have been received (not necessarily from 100 different people). However, responses were submitted from many different postcodes. CS was surprised at the lack of reaction from the public so far considering we had good press coverage, a banner on the town hall and interest on social media. Much more feedback is required. The new Lancaster residents may become involved as they are neighbours of HUN14 similarly Cottrell close residents, as neighbours to HUN15.
- iii. **Opportunities for further physical sessions and encouragement to take part** – Different locations were suggested such as the Leisure Centre and Herongate. **ACTION:** Find out their busiest/best time to attend. A gazebo at Tesco would attract the most footfall and would be good for leafleting. A leaflet could advertise event(s) elsewhere, encourage on-line feedback and include a map with basic info. The same leaflet could appear as an advert in the Adviser, perhaps an A4 double fold. **ACTION:** Clerk to obtain costs.
- iv. **FAQs or other information needed to accompany** – **ACTION:** TDT to update the FAQs following the questions received during the consultations and online. It was suggested these should include:

How does the referendum work? It is a simple majority of those that turn out to vote.

What happens if it goes to referendum and the vote isn't carried?

What about the access through Smitham Bridge Road to HUN7 - There are already HGVs going to the industrial units?

ACTION: TDT – Write a plain English summary of the HELAA process and what has already been assessed, explaining we are only considering sites that have been put forward by promoters and that have passed the HELAA. Point out 'at least 55 new homes will be built on greenfield land'.

ACTION: TDT to rework draft summaries based on the following comments:

Draft summary on Traffic – Are we clear on what we are saying? The figures show 55 houses will not make much impact. WBC's previous traffic study compared the impact on the town, of houses being built to the north with houses being built to the south. Based on 100 houses there was negligible difference. It was commented that the impact on parking is not shown. Whereas parking in town may increase it is thought the location of the sites will not affect the number.

Draft summary on Doctors – The surgery has confirmed that numbers of patients have not increased but there have been more attendances in the last 10 years as the population are getting older. The capacity of the surgery has reduced due to a lack of doctors and problems recruiting. The outcome of the 2021 Census is awaited and may change the predicted figures. We need to explain what 'affordable housing' means. There are 6 definitions.

4. **Beyond Housing**

- i. **Other NDP topics we should be developing?** The 'Dream' document written some months ago includes suggestions on topics to include. We could make use of our time now, around

consultations, to think about what the final NDP may look like, using info from the surveys and revisiting detail from the town plan. It was noted the current NDP work done is potentially useful on planning applications that may come forward now. It was suggested we could use the Town Plan template to provide continuity and start with writing a contents page. WBC's local plan provides building/environmental standards. HTC's action plan and strategy including ideas from the leisure and heritage strategy could be considered for inclusion. Aspirations could help with referendum support.

ACTION: C Scorey will provide Town Plan document template. All to bring back ideas to the next meeting.

5. **ACTION:** Next meeting date and dates for next consultations TBA

Meeting ended 8.50pm