

MINUTES OF THE THURLESTONE PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Held in the Yeo Room of the Parish Hall on Tuesday 13 March 2018 at 4 p.m.

Present: Tony Goddard (Chairman) (AG), Sue Crowther (SC), Gary Luddington (GL), Robin McDonald (RM) Kit Marshall (KM), David Martin (DM), Charlie Mitchelmore (CM), Jill Munn (JM), Judy Pearce (JP), Chris White (CW).

- 1. Apologies:** David Houghton (DH)
- 2. The Minutes of the last meeting** were agreed.
- 3. Matters arising not on the agenda:** SC and JP had attended the Examination in Public of the Plymouth & SW Devon JLP on the day that the Thriving Towns and Villages (TTV) policies were being discussed. There were a few relevant points. The Examiner had been keen to point out the difference between aspiration and policy. The numbers allocated to each of the Sustainable Villages (including Thurlestone), based on the facilities survey as an indication of sustainability, were also discussed. *[JP: The parish has largely escaped the implications of this, since all villages in the AONB are only expected to bring forward ten dwellings, the minimum requirement, from adoption to 2034.]*
- 4. Review of the responses to SHDC's Reg. 16 consultation:** a question was asked about who could respond to this Reg. 16 consultation. SC replied that it seemed in practice anyone could, though it was usually those bodies and individuals who had been consulted at Reg. 14. The response from Graham Swiss was picked up in this context. He had stated that he was responding in a personal capacity, but was in fact a strategic planning specialist at South Hams District Council. He had been requested by the Council to withdraw his submission and had agreed to do so. There was a general discussion on the other responses, including the one from the Bantam Estate and their reference to key workers. SC then outlined the process during the Examination. The Examiner would decide whether a hearing is required and had undertaken to visit the Parish. There was some discussion of the kind of remarks or directions the Examiner might make. There followed further discussion comparing the Reg. 14 and Reg.16 responses from officers of the District Council. There seemed to be some direct contradictions and factual inaccuracies, e.g. in the case of policy TP19, the Reg.14 officer asked us to include mitigation for the loss of biodiversity or habitats; whilst the Reg.16 officer suggested we delete it as it didn't add any value. Similarly, in the case of Policy TP2, we had specifically removed the

'rounding off' criteria, as requested in the Council's Reg.14 response, yet the Reg.16 officer said the policy remained unchanged.

5. **Funding and the End of Grant Form (31 March 2018).** There was still some question over exactly which invoices had been paid by the parish council, and in particular one payment to Nick Walker for printing, but SC would get a draft reconciliation to DM at the soonest, as the Groundwork UK End of Grant Form needed to be made by the end of March. Further funds can be drawn down from Locality in the next financial year for printing etc.
6. **Next steps:** It was difficult to estimate how long the Examiner will take to return his report and how long South Hams will take to make their decision as to whether the plan can proceed to Referendum; and/or whether there will need to be further discussions between the SG and planning officers to reconcile any issues. *[Note: South Hams has up to five weeks to make their decision under the NP regulations.]* Hopefully, there could be a 'Referendum Special' edition of Village Voice in June. This would be a slimmed down version, but was thought to be a good way of publicising the Referendum, because people tended not to 'bin' Village Voice and they might bin a leaflet! RM said it might be worth looking into other ways of having it printed if full colour printing was needed. At least 500 copies would be needed. It was agreed that quotes should be obtained from Nick Walker for any additional printing.
7. **Implementation:**
 - Procedure: Further consideration needs to be given to the regulations and guidance regarding implementation and monitoring.
 - Referendum: see 6 above.
 - Publicity and Code of Conduct: Parish and District Councillors must be even-handed and not wield any undue influence on the outcome of the Referendum. 'Get out to vote' activities are permitted.
8. **Implementation:** Heritage, as an example, should be relatively easy to deal with and SC asked some steering group members to make a list of the identified non-designated heritage items and detail their state of repair, any maintenance required immediately or in the future etc.
 - AG to cover Bantham
 - DM and Kay Barry to cover Buckland
 - KM to cover ThurlestoneCW agreed to collate the reports and to oversee.

There then followed some discussion on the Care Home, recently closed and the Garage, about to close. Since the Parish Hall wanted more car parking, the Chairman should write to the chairman of the Parish council and JP as the local district councillor. CM would help out in any way appropriate with this.

Rob Ellis (SHDC Community Housing officer) was to be contacted by JP re a meeting in Thurlestone for those in the parish who are interested in the community-led housing project, but JP to make it clear to him it was not yet the time to be identifying sites.

SC then suggested that a planning sub-committee could be set up to assist the parish council with planning applications in the parish, since it was important that all relevant aspects of the neighbourhood plan should be brought to the District Council's notice for every planning application on which the parish would comment. SC said this would be an opportunity to involve people who had assisted with the evidence gathering and community events. Most of the parish councillors present, however, objected to this suggestion and the matter was left for another day. Finally, it was further emphasised that everyone, whether steering group member or parish councillor, would need to improve their knowledge of the TPNP so that comments on planning applications would be really effective.

9. Next Meeting: Tuesday 1 May at 4pm in the Yeo Room.

Items for further discussion:

- Heritage
- The Garage
- The Care Home
- Community-Led Housing
- Any outcome from the Examiner's Report, if received.