

VILLAGE CONCERNS

Minutes of the 2nd Annual General Meeting

Venue and time: East Hoathly Pavilion 7.30.pm 18th of October 2018

Those present: Kathryn Richardson(KR) Gill Kennedy (GK), Mike Hill (MH), Katherine Gutkind (KG), Jonathan Walker(JW), Fred Carter (FC) Andy Burns (AB) David Dobbs (DD) Fiona Dobbs (FD) Tania Freezer (TF)

16 visitors attended.

Apologies: Bill Walker, Mollie Tideman and Tim Laker.

The Village Concerns Chairperson (KR) welcomed all to the AGM and explained the format of the meeting.

1. Minutes of previous AGM
2. Chair's report.
3. Treasurers report.
4. Update on current applications.
5. Neighbourhood Plan.
6. Election of Chair 2018-2019.
7. Questions.
8. Appeal for help.

1) Minutes of the previous AGM Sept 15th 2017

It was confirmed that these were read and approved.

2) Chair's Report

- a) We were waiting for the Wealden draft local Plan 2013 to 2028 and supporting evidence to be published after an initial draft had been presented to Council in March 2017
- b) There was a Planning embargo on all development in Wealden unless it could be shown that there was no effect on Ashdown Forest ie no increase in traffic. This was because of damaging effect of Nitrogen Oxides on Forest vegetation.
- c) Foresters could say there was no increase in Traffic going from a pub to 3 houses.
Planning permission and Listed Building Permission has been given finally after a battle spearheaded by Mike Evans. Listed building status internal and external has been given thanks to KG and JW.

d) In Dec 2017 Hesmonds put in an amendment for Highways re London Rd access after Highways Objection . Despite it being just before Christmas,, as usual ,VC researched it and asked people to confirm the original objection and to state that the amendments had not resolved the London Rd access. The issues re Ailes lane and Waldron Rd had not been addressed.

e) In June 2018 the final Draft Local Plan was produced with supporting evidence and sent out for public consultation through August to October. Comments are being collated by WDC ready to be sent to the Planning Inspector for review. Objections to the proposed plan will be considered and the Inspector will have the power to amend the Plan if he or she deems this necessary after a public hearing. It is anticipated that the Local Plan will be finally adopted early in 2019.

Evidence base includes Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulation Assessment, Traffic Modelling. Mitigation Measures

- WDC will continue to try and restrict development which results in an increase in the traffic passing through Ashdown Forest and this will include the monitoring of traffic movements and habitat changes.

WDC are proposing the building of 14,228 from 2013 to 2028, 7700 houses have already been built or committed. Most of these will be constructed in the South Wealden Area therefore having minimal effect on the Ashdown Forest.

The proposed distribution of housing in towns and villages in Wealden was shown. Wealden was shown

It is interesting to see in the emerging Local Plan that towns and villages which have a railway station nearby have a greater allocation of housing.

East Hoathly development Boundary and relevant Policy WLP6 were then shown along with Halland core area and relevant policy RAS1 were then shown relating to the draft Local Plan

Treasurers Report

DD reported that the VC bank account has £5466.00 in available funds.

Update on Current Applications

Applications for planning approval as yet undetermined include:

Hesmonds, Buttsfield Lane, Bramblebank, Hop Garden, Old Hartfield, Halland Forge and South Street.

As soon as the Local Plan is finally agreed some of these applications can move forward for determination. Air quality mitigation and the provision of electric charging points has been suggested by WDC Planning as a possible way of allowing some of these applications to move forward for determination therefore VC must remain vigilant.

Village Concerns Mission Statement was given.

Neighbourhood Plan

JW explained the progress with the East Hoathly and Halland neighbourhood plan. The plan consists of 16 parts and parts 1 – 6 have now been completed leaving parts 7 – 16 to be completed.

The chairperson Dianne Knill is stepping down and Chris Magness is taking over.

Consultation groups are to be formed to cover development/employment/leisure/infrastructure/health and well being/ environment and countryside. Anyone who feels that they may be able to contribute to these groups will be welcome.

It has been confirmed that the PC will fund the creation of the neighbourhood plan the £1,000.00. provided from "locality" has already been used up.

Less than 50 dwellings can be proposed for the plan and the plan can state where and what style these dwellings should be. The dwellings must be within the development boundary or adjacent or policy compliant buildings in the countryside.

JW confirmed that East Hoathly and Halland is in the "WDC Middle Super Output Area 13S this includes Laughton and Chiddingly. WDC have allocated 48 dwellings for this area to be built between 2013 and 2028 of which 27 have already been constructed and applications have been submitted which, if approved, would use up the remaining 21.

Election of Chairperson

JW asked for nominations for the chairperson
Kate Richardson was proposed, seconded and elected as chair for 2018-2019

Questions

Christopher Adam asked if Chiddingly and Laughton are going to prepare their own Neighbourhood Plans. JW said that he believed they were not. GK said that Chiddingly are considering producing one.

Another audience member questioned timings of the Local Plan.
JW confirmed that objections had to be lodged by the 8th of October. Many comments and objections have been lodged some at the last moment by planning consultants. It is not possible to know on what date the LP will become finally adopted this should be by mid January but could possibly be extended by three months.

Another audience member asked if the 48 allocated dwellings in the Middle Super Output Area reduces to zero will there be an additional allocation. JW confirmed that there would be no further allocation.

Another audience member asked if The Forge application is a "brownfield" site as it has a previous consent for motel accommodation JW confirmed that it is classified as a brownfield site and, if approved the numbers of units would go towards the 48 allocated.

Another audience member questioned the provision of housing in an AONB on a brownfield site. Has a study of available brownfield sites been carried out in our Parish. JW not sure but there are virtually no brownfield sites in our parish.

Appeal For Help

KR asked everyone to help whenever possible, take a note of when power cuts occur, disruptions with travel, water supplies, drainage etc.

Finally

David Dobbs, on behalf of VC wishes to thank Bill Walker for his work throughout the year updating the VC Blog