

Minutes of the DSWNP project management group meeting 22 June 2016.

Present: James Standing, Phil Smith, Trevor Kirby, Edwina Rowling, Mike Burr, Paul Farrands, Mark Clark, Don McBeth, Brian Clifford, Tony Corrigan, Sallie Collard-Watson, Julie Middleton, Rob Mills, Cathy Mills, Dan Ashe (SDNPA), Tom Jones.

1. Mike Burr was elected as acting chair.
2. Pre-submission consultation update: ER reported that the work Mike Burr had done on collating responses was on the website. Focus groups had met to consider amendments and a useful meeting had been held with SDNPA on their detailed response and next steps. Mike Burr is reformatting/rewriting the plan and land use policies and aspirational policies will be two separate documents. Mike had circulated a full list of responses with corresponding recommended actions.
 - Traffic Transport: Mike Burr reported that he had been advised that the document Roads in the South Downs was ESCC policy and ESCC has been asked for formal confirmation. This could be reflected in policies, eg on quiet lanes, more sympathetic environmental treatment prioritising community needs above traffic.
 - Housing: the Nye Lane site is being taken out of consideration – the SDNPA would not support it. The SDNPA is more positive about Park Barn Farm although there are issues, eg landscaping, that would need sorting out. Discussions would also need to be held with the Beacon Park Residents' Association. Some new sites had come forward as a result of the consultation: the garage site at Nye Lane could furnish units in addition to those for which there is already planning permission; Neville Estate could build two small units on their land opposite the garage site; the field off Common Lane/junction of Orchard Lane has been put forward and an assessment was awaited from SDNPA. The site at Ditchling Nursery, Beacon Road, was discussed in the light of a submission from a representative of the owners. It was agreed that there should be no change in the view that this was not an appropriate site for housing development in the plan, and the SDNPA said it would not support it. More detailed plans for the Park Barn Farm site and the new sites will form part of a further public consultation.
 - Environment and conservation: the responses had thrown up nothing problematic for this section. There was a discussion on the designation of green spaces as specified in policy CONS 13 in the draft plan – list of proposals to be circulated to all members. The final list will form part of a further consultation and all the relevant landowners will be asked for their views.
 - Community infrastructure and business groups: had both met and saw no problems with minor amendments to take responses into account.

It was agreed that the full response sheet, with actions, would be put on the website on 4 July, giving all members time to raise any objections or changes.

3. Second consultation: it was agreed that a second 6-week consultation should take place with more detailed housing/land use proposals on the existing and new sites (see above) and including the proposed green space designations.

It was hoped this could run from mid-summer but timing is dependent on landowners providing plans, discussions with authorities etc.

4. Date of next meeting: 27 July 2016.