

A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR EGERTON

WORKING GROUP

Minutes of meeting Wednesday 13 March 2019 at 7.30 pm, Sports Pavilion

1. **Present:** Jane Carr (Chair), Elaine Graham, Graham Howland, Richard King, Ian Mella, Claire Stevens, Lois Tilden (Secretary)
2. **Apologies for absence:** Jerry Crossley
3. **Declarations of Interest:** Graham Howland, Elaine Graham, Richard King
4. **The minutes of the previous meeting on 13 February 2019 were approved.**
5. **Action points and follow-up from previous meeting were discussed as below:**
 - a. **Progress on updating the Website (and other media) on :**
 - i. **Housing Needs Survey** - now on the Website in full and in summary form. GH has added information about this on Facebook. Similar information to be added to "My Next Door". All sites invite comments and from members of the public. **Action: GH**
 - ii. **View of Church** – RK will take more photos and give OS map references and direction with support from GH, who would provide GPS data. The Website had a very attractive display and visual effects. GH to speak to Sandra Laws about the functionality of the website as it appeared not to be compatible with mobile phones. GH and CS were congratulated on their splendid work along with SL. **Action: GH & RK**
 - iii. **Heritage sites** - CS had been in touch with Chris Patterson at the South Downs NPA who will put forward further considerations before this goes on the website. LT would speak to Smarden PC about the WWII memorial in Bedlam Lane as to its potential scope in the Egerton NP (as land for the former airfield had crossed Smarden and Egerton parishes). More research was also needed about Molly's Steps/Stone at the top of Rock Hill Pat Parr had a map of all the footpaths (the Definitive map) but due copyright restrictions, could not copy it for us. An approach to KCC who hold the original map was necessary. PP would pursue this but if this failed, one of the Group would take this further with KCC . **Action: CS, LT**
 - iv. **Green Spaces** – it was agreed that a matrix with 3 key criteria should be developed to help identify and categorise green spaces that can be demonstrated as being of particular local significance. It was also

agreed that the value of grass verges, ditches and hedges should be recognised in the NP. **Action: EG and LT to do a tour of the village to identify key green spaces as a start. Then finally to the website for comment.**

- v. **Site Selection criteria** – not yet on the website; awaiting further comment from ABC and South Downs NPA (the latter had only made minor comments to date). It had been suggested by ABC that their detailed matrix for assessing sites for housing development might be adopted, although the NP Group thought this was rather too detailed. ABC had also suggested that the KCC minerals planning policy document should also be a consideration as there are tracts of Kentish Ragstone that might be either protected or exploited. **Action: LT to look into this to check details and relevance.**

- vi. **Vision and Objectives** – now on the website

- b. **Letters to landowners**

JC had issued letters to landowners to explain the latest position following the Housing Needs survey and its outcome. Grateful thanks received from 3 of them and one other reply.

- c. **Parish Design Statement Review**

ABC had been very impressed with JCr's work on this, and would consider it as a potential model template to use more widely. Our South Downs consultants had suggested we should include a policy on this within the NP and attach the Parish Design Statement as an Annex. It was mooted in the meeting that JCr should be invited to be part of a panel for EPC so that local people could approach the panel for guidance when considering/making planning applications. The conversion of agricultural buildings with the impact they might have on the countryside also needed more consideration in that context. A new print-run might be needed depending on how many copies remained. **Action: JC/LT to float idea to JCr**

6. **Development of our Neighbourhood Plan Policies and Timetable review**

JC had extracted relevant policies from ABC's 2030 plan to help pick up what the Group needed to cover/emphasise/"Egertonise". All agreed to consider the policies listed and offer ideas for Egerton-specific policies in the NP - for example, on light pollution and noise. RK agreed to ask Gale King if she could help with the biodiversity section in view of her link with the Kent Wildlife Trust. JC agreed to ask Steve Kirk likewise with his connections at Wildwood and other interests. **Action: All, RK, JC**

7. **Village confines exercise**

It was agreed this would be pursued later once other issues had progressed further.

8. **Preparation for Parish Assembly 21 March 7.30pm**

Not all members of the Group would be at the Assembly – and some would be there for other organisations as well. Nevertheless it was agreed we would have sufficient cover. GH would bring photos and the annotated parish map. GH would also obtain copies of the Parish Plan and Design Statement to distribute. JC would make copies of the revised key objectives, vision and timetable. CS would provide the list of heritage sites, seeking comments/additions from members of the public. LT would bring stationery and post-it notes and paper; All would aim to foster community engagement. GH would lead in setting up easels, tables etc. All should aim to arrive at 6.45pm. **Action: All**

9. Any Other Business

It was agreed that the Parish Council's commitment should be sustained; RK agreed to give the necessary encouragement. **Action: RK**

10. Date of next meeting and venue

Monday 1 April at 7.30pm, in the Hall Committee room. **Action: EG to arrange.**

The meeting ended at 9.40pm