

## **Hardwicke Parish Council**

### **Neighbourhood Plan Development Steering Group**

#### **Minutes of Meeting held on August 20<sup>th</sup> 2014**

##### **Present:**

Kevin Marsden (Chair)

Fran Welbourne

Jill Brearley

Lyn Welbourne

Graham Brearley

Matthew Parker

Theresa Harrison

Kevin Lee (clerk to parish council)

##### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Diane Green and Ian Widdows.

##### **2. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on July 16th were approved as a correct record.

##### **3. Workload**

KM commented on the increasing workload and the difficulty in finding adequate time to undertake the work of the specific themes. It was acknowledged that each of the theme leads were finding it difficult to undertake many of the tasks to allow the NDP to be completed on time.

##### **4. Report of Meeting with Stroud District Council**

KM and KL reported on the meeting held with Mark Russell, Strategic lead at SDC for the Council's Core Strategy. The potential housing need for Hardwicke had been discussed with Mark Russell and with GRCC. Mark Russell and GRCC had both agreed with the methodology used. Mark Russell stated that the additional housing need for Hardwicke could be met within the Hunts Grove allocation. He also pointed out that the additional 500 homes for Hunts Grove was to accommodate the need across the Stroud area and not just the need within Hardwicke.

It was acknowledged that a Housing Needs Survey, undertaken by GRCC would assist in the preparation of the NDP the survey would also highlight any potential

need for 'exception sites' for the benefit of local residents. It was agreed to request, via the parish council for GRCC to undertake a full survey.

## **5 Village Centre**

One of the key themes that emerged from the public survey was for the desire to create a village centre. Ideas presented by residents included, shops, post office, café and GP facilities. The group recognised that to deliver on this would require substantial financing, which would normally only be possible through development and contributions from developers.

The group agreed that at some point a number of options would need to be developed and presented to residents for consideration.

## **6 Theme Groups**

### **a) Improved Services and Facilities.**

In addition to the comments about creating village centre other ideas included creating a clear footpath and cycle route linking the areas from Green Lane through to the Church.

### **b) Maintaining the Community**

It was recognised that as work had developed themes a and b overlapped

### **c) Protecting the Environment**

A report on wildlife characteristics had been undertaken by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. JB to circulate report. It was agreed that further work may be needed to identify specific elements within the report. As there was an increase in information being gathered MP agreed to investigate setting up a 'dropbox' facility. GB and JB reported that they had held discussions with David Lesser from SDC on flooding issues.

### **d) Communications and Transport**

MP gave an update on his work on the theme and identified that there were no specific cycle routes within Hardwicke. Any plans for future development should take this into account. In respect of communications it was identified that again any development should ensure adequate and efficient broadband connection.

### **e) Homes to Meet Local Need**

KM referred to the earlier item and the discussion held with Mark Russell.

### **f) Enhancing the Local Economy**

KM reported that there had been a nil response form the 200 businesses written to in the area. This had been discussed with SDC and it was considered best to incorporate the SDC analysis of business need and growth into the NDP. It was acknowledged that growth was likely to centre around the Quedgeley West Site.

## **7 Audits**

KM gave an update on discussions held with FW, LW and GRCC on undertaking green and open space audits. A pro forma had been provided for undertaking a Landscape Character Survey.

## **8 Social Media**

MP and KM agreed to meet to progress this item further.

## **9 Project Plan and Open actions**

KM gave an update on the plan and identified areas of outstanding work

Meeting Closed at 21.20