

Sandy Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Thursday 9 November 2023 at 7.30pm
Sandy Town Council Chamber, 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy

Minutes

Present: Nigel Aldis, Rob Baker, Sally Chapman, Anne Elliott-Flockhart, Arnie Gilpin, Joanna Hewitt (Chair) Anthony and Ruth Lock.

Apologies: Richard Barlow, Jennifer Ivanciu-Wilkinson, Lewis Hedley, Lorraine Ivanciu-Wilkinson and Chris Patterson.

1. Approval of Minutes from 11 October 2023

The minutes were approved.

2. Sally Chapman - update

Sally has everyone's comments on the draft plan and is working through them.

We need to define the town centre boundary. The one in the local plan doesn't go as far as the Ironmongers. A member asked why we need to define it. Sally replied that with a better-defined town centre boundary it will mean that if someone wants to change a shop to a flat they have to market it for 6 months to prove there is no interest in it before it can be changed.

Rob is working on the mapping and will update the census info.

Richard is working on the heritage assets report.

We need to find the date of when the NP group was formed.

Arnie will do explanatory notes for the pictures, e.g shops in High Street, to make it clear for the examiners.

We are waiting to hear if Chris has spoken to the RSPB.

Joanna will ask the Town Council for a list of aspirations from any documents such as the Green Infrastructure plan or the Green Wheel.

Sally is comfortable that we are making progress. The next step will be to send the document to CBC for screening. They need to send it to Historic England and the Environment Agency. This can be done in parallel with getting town council approval. Once we have a date to take it to Town Council Sally will go through the checklist to make sure we have everything we need.

A member noted that it is important to mention that there will need to be links between Sandy and the new station at Tempsford.

When Sally has updated the plan she will send it to Joanna and Chris to circulate.

4. Timeline

To be discussed at the next meeting.

5. Events -2024

Realistically we are looking to go out to consultation in February. There are no planned events that we can piggy-back on around this time so it will have to be a standalone event.

Sally recommended waiting for two weeks into the consultation before holding the event. Which gives two weeks to advertise and get the message out.

Some groups hold two events, one at two weeks and one at 4 weeks. The examiner would expect to see a daytime and evening event including a display with members of the group available to capture comments.

There was a lot of discussion about the consultation with the following ideas being suggested:

- Event at the Town Council Office
- Displays at the library, the empty dress shop, Tesco, Train station (in the TC display boards)
- Banners at the train station, town centre, entries to town
- Posters in town centre shops, noticeboards, sent out to schools, community groups.

We need to think about how we capture comments from the public, we need to keep it simple so it will be easier to summarise.

We need to consult with residents, community groups and anyone who has been involved with the plan.

It will be easier to do an online form, but we need to have some paper copies for those who can't access the online form.

Sally recommended that we set up a group to start prepping for the consultation. She has a checklist to go through to help.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Date and time of next meeting

To be confirmed.

