

MINUTES 10

Thursday 7th February 2016 10.30am
Top Room Charing Parish Hall

1.	<p>In attendance: Cllrs H Billot, J Leyland, T Reed, N Blunt and C Bain-Smith, Jim Boot and Jane Emblem (“the Admin”) Dan Carter and Matthew Nouch from ABC</p>
2.	<p>HB welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.</p>
3.	<p>Update on Local Plan: Dan Carter advised that ABC’s position was more firm but would still take time to finalise. 800-1200 dwellings are confirmed and the focus is on the first 5 years land supply. There will be a private meeting on 23rd February with minutes available thereafter. ABC are looking at increasing numbers in the rural area as the urban areas are saturated. Pressure particularly on Ham Street, Tenterden and Charing. The Council is looking at a site in Charing (Wheler foundation Northern site near Poppyfields). Parsons Mead will not be accounted for in the LP. The owners of Parsons Mead should contact ABC. ABC officers do not support the Southern Site and the best defence may be to support the Northern Site. HB said the Northern Site was unsuitable for a number of reasons.</p> <p>ABC feel that the Northdown Garage Site is suitable for housing although the LP does include the need for business sites. Charing NP will have business development and employment as a central core. DC said we should focus on why Charing believes Northdown Garage is better for business.</p> <p>JB asked if it was possible to carry out site assessments in conjunction with ABC but no, they are too far forward</p> <p>HB noted that Charing is now ahead of the LP and we are not being unreasonable, trying to be aligned. What can ABC offer in return? DC recommended speaking to our ward member</p> <p>DC would not confirm numbers for Charing and said ABC are looking to publish the position in the summer</p> <p>Site assessments will be carried out over the next couple of months</p> <p>JB confirmed we need to bring our framework forward which has a 5 week consultation period</p> <p>A strategic environmental assessment funded by AECOM would be invaluable to all but ABC need to get the ball rolling with a screening exercise. ABC need to know location of sites. There is an extensive assessment on Swale’s website (Faversham Creek).</p> <p>Matthew Nouch asked individuals to sign up to register self build interest on ABC website and will send the link</p>
4.	<p>Update on NP: HB said we continue with our open and transparent approach. Every household has an update leaflet. We are providing our contact at AECOM, John Romney, with material to start their report which they hope to produce by April. Corrie Bain Smith is in charge of Heritage. We are testing the community questionnaire this week with a Steering Committee Meeting on 23rd February. We expect the Questionnaire to be delivered and collected in the first two weeks of March. We have undertaken a business questionnaire. We are working with a land agent/developer regarding business development and employment with plans to talk to larger employers to establish their ideas.</p> <p>We are undertaking an investigating report on the Charing Surgery as there has been a recent decline in patient satisfaction.</p>

	<p>There is a big question mark over Orbit and whether it is an exemption site. There is no evidence of local demand.</p> <p>We are making progress on the village confines with separate committees for Charing and Charing Heath.</p> <p>Housing Research has been undertaken regarding development over the last 25 years. We are looking at disproportionate trends in housing stock. Larger houses are now slow to sell.</p> <p>JB is helping us prepare a specification for a planning consultant who we are hoping to appoint in the next month</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Next steps – Matthew Nouch</p> <p>Scoping reports on proposed sites</p> <p>Heritage Strategy (draft) and review of Conservation Area Proposals</p> <p>We need to understand our significant assets which have been classified into 8 sections</p> <p>Archaeological potential</p> <p>Farming</p> <p>Railway</p> <p>Ecclisiastical</p> <p>????</p> <p>Most pressing theme is the future of the Archbishop’s Palace</p> <p>When its finished the Heritage Statement will sit behind the LP and one of the recommendations is to update the appraisal areas. We should explore via AECOM whether they can take on this update. We can wait for ABC or be guinea pigs in terms of innovative methods/funding. MN will email.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>The meeting was closed with DC confirming there will be continuing dialogue between us. We will fix to meet again in 6-8 weeks</p>