

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING 4

Monday 26th September 6pm
Charing Heath and Lenham Heath Memorial Hall

1.	Council and Committee Attendees: Jill Leyland, Hugh Billot, Nick Blunt, Chris Prinn, Tylden Reed, Anita Gudge, Jim Boot, Dawne Austen
2.	Welcome by HB, introduction to Neighbourhood Plan and Agenda
3.	Explanation by JB of Neighbourhood Plan with reference to a powerpoint presentation and explaining how NP and LP interacts
4.	<p>Questions arising</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why did the Poppyfields infrastructure contribution go to ABC not Charing? (JL) Nearly all of the money will be spent in Charing going to playgrounds, bus shelters, school and surgery. ABC retains about 15% 2. What is the housing stock threshold for Section 106? (JL/JB) It is about 10 dwellings or more but there are law changes ahead and contribution may come from any new property built 3. Why were the Parish Plan and Village Appraisal ignored especially as they took a long time to do and incorporated the parishioners wishes. Will NP just be another waste of time? (JB) These were voluntary documents, the NP will be part of the statutory framework and will carry much more clout and ABC will have to take account of it. (JL) briefly covered the housing situation. Local Plan requires 55 new dwellings on two sites; Orbit proposes 51 flats and bungalows; Wilkinson second phase proposes 9 and Wheler Foundation proposes about 300. There are some other in-fill sites proposed for small developments. Our NP needs to firm up on what is acceptable in terms of new houses and where they should be built. 4. How many new houses does Charing have to have? According to local plan 55 5. If we exceed 55 will ABC demand 200? (JB) Developers may try to squeeze more 6. What is a garden city (Wheler proposal) (JB) Up to 2000 new homes to make a new town or village 7. How do you influence ABC Good attendance at meetings like we are experiencing provides real views and sound evidence to underpin our proposals. Please come to all of the meetings so we can hear your views and take them on board. <p>JB explained the post it notes, what is working well already, what is “pants” and what are your dreams for the village</p>
6.	JL explained about the exhibitions in the hall and attendees were invited to look at this, complete their post its and enjoy refreshments supplied by The Red Lion
7.	Cathy Bugden gave feedback on the post its, particularly what is important- Protecting the rural communities of both Charing and Charing Heath, maximising green spaces and conversion of quarry sites at end of life into open spaces, avoid major housing estates and speeding traffic
8.	JL explained that the playgrounds in Charing and Charing Heath both needed slides replaced as they have reached the end of their useful lives. This kind of thing can be included in the NP

	<p>CP gave an update on Bretts. They have started to cut the swain between Hook Lane and Burleigh Farm. The area around the ancient chapel will not be excavated. There are archaeologists on site every day. The tunnel under the road will be built in the Spring. Tile Lodge Road will be closed for three weeks. There is a meeting on 18th October.</p>
9.	<p>Close by HB who set out where we go from here We need to form a steering committee with all ages and backgrounds over the next few weeks and get as many volunteers as possible to do the legwork. The committee will digest the initial views and workshops will be organised later this year to gain further information. From that a questionnaire will be drafted and this will be sent to everyone in the parish so that views on everything can be given to help start draft the NP. Once drafted and agreed with ABC it comes back to the village to gain consensus by referendum. It's important not to conflict with ABC. HB thanked the speakers and everyone for coming</p>
10.	<p>Attendees as evidenced by registration form (not including Council and Committee members) 56</p>