



Minutes of a Meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group held at the village hall on 18th February 7.30 pm.

NPSG Members Present: Cllr Michael Bustard (Chair), Tim Pontin, Cllr Seeley, Cllr Fowler, Lesley Durso, and Jonathan Timberlake

In attendance: Alison Eardley (Planning Consultant) Fiona Chalk (Clerk)

No members of the public were present.

1.	Apologies for absence: Cllr Baker
2.	Approval of the Minutes of 3.12.24 The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.
3.	Outstanding Actions TP provided an update on the checklist of outstanding items. The remaining item was the Lessons Learnt exercise, details of which had been circulated and commented on prior to the meeting. All other outstanding items have been addressed, and this item can now be closed.
4.	Implications of SDNP consultation on NP development and progress Several matters were raised including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring the allocations in the EDFPC Neighbourhood Plan align with those in the SDNPA Local Plan 2. Rural exception sites, and how these are communicated to the Parish Action: Cllr Bustard to write to SDNPA on behalf of the NPSG to seek an answer to this question <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. How is the SDNPA Local Plan going to be policed? 4. In the previous SDNPA Local Plan, there was a statement that ED&F have met their site allocation for housing. This statement has been removed from the current Local Plan <p>It was agreed that members could raise any concerns with SDNPA directly through the online consultation form, or feedback comments to the Clerk by 26th February. All comments, including those from the Councillors and the NPSG, will be collated and form part of the Parish Council's online response post its 6th March meeting.</p>
5.	Implications of Black Robin Farm development on NP It was noted that the SDNPA gave planning permission for Black Robin Farm (BRF), but it receives no mention in their proposed Local Plan. The Farm is due for opening in summer 2026 and is being led by the Towner Centre.

	<p>Members discussed several issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to BRF from East Dean by road, bike, on foot, is not detailed and could have significant implications for East Dean 2. The lack of consultation by Eastbourne Borough Council with SDNPA/ED&FPC 3. The ED&F Neighbourhood Plan should be used as a springboard to collaborate with other stakeholders to address emerging issues 4. The implications for the village are increased visitor numbers and the effect of that on traffic movement, shop usage, housing (Airbnb growth) etc. 5. There is no current visitor/tourism policy in the Neighbourhood Plan, but it is alluded to. Action: AE to strengthen the wording in the NP – JT to support with commentary 6. King Charles III nature reserve in East Sussex that is coming into being will surround East Dean, which will also have implications on visitor numbers <p>Action: PC to discuss the potential to draw up a Tourism Strategy for the village</p>
6.	<p>Approval of final draft of NP</p> <p>The following amendments were recommended for AE to action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appendix F to be a standalone document 2. Further link the NP to the emerging SDNPA Local Plan under 1.11 – commenting on alignment of plans and their timing 3. Under Sustainable Tourism, give clarity on the transport plan for Black Robin Farm to be considered 4. P130, remove sentence relating to local green spaces <p>Action: AE to update and provide definitive version to all members by 22nd February. Definitive version to go the PC by 26th February for discussion and approval on the 6th of March PC meeting.</p>
7.	<p>Review of Timetable for NP to referendum</p> <p>The SDNPA have advised that the reg. 16 consultations for the Local Plan could be brought forward given the cancellation of the local elections in May.</p> <p>The processes flow and timetable were discussed. It was noted that the Plan gains greater authority the further it progresses through the process. Once approved by the PC, the Plan will be on the PC's website.</p> <p>Once the SDNPA are happy they have received all the necessary documentation, there will be a 6-week consultation, where SDNPA will consult with statutory bodies. The PC/NPSG can encourage local contributions to this consultation. All consultation responses are sent to SDNPA (not the NPSG). The Examiner will then review all the documentation and comments, make any necessary recommendations, and hopefully approve the Plan.</p>
8.	<p>Review of Financial Position</p> <p>The Clerk advised that the grant amendment request has been approved.</p> <p>The updated budget figures were noted.</p>
9.	<p>Any other outstanding items</p> <p>None.</p>

10.	Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 30 th April at 7.30pm <div style="text-align: right;">Clerk to cancel/book meetings</div>
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The meeting closed at 21.02pm

Signed:.....

Date:.....