Minutes of Thruxton NDP Group meeting on 20th February 2017

Chair: Kate Philipson (KP)

Present:-

Louisa Chamberlain (LC)
John Davis (JD)
Steve Counsel (SC)
Alan Leslie (AL)
Mike Windsor (MW)
Bill Brewer (BB)
Simon Watson (SW)
Liz Watson (LW)

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed. A mention was made of the contact with Donna and the difficulties that arose. Further reports to follow when necessary.

Terms of Reference

The Chair stated that if we don't get TOR it right it can easily undermine what we are trying to achieve. We have draft terms drawn up by CMW for the council which is short. We also have the toolkit available in the Dropbox and they have an example T of R for a steering group. Purpose, principles, roles and responsibilities, working group, finance conduct and any changes. All agreed to adopt this 'template'. SC mentioned if we come across any difficulties then we can amend at the council meeting on 1st March.

Consultation Document

The Chair stated that she and MW went to see Graham at TVBC to consider the draft and he seemed quite happy with all of it. He didn't make many comments. It was interesting and useful. MW got the impression that it was almost new to them. They had read what had been sent to them but they didn't have a strong view on a lot of aspects. KP thought he might challenge language use etc. but stated we had to raise every point. We were in there for two hours.

KP asked for comments and there followed a lengthy discussion about detail of the consultation document before all changes were agreed.

Distribution and collection of the survey forms was agreed and dates given. Committee members were allocated specific pick up areas for house to house calls for collection on Sunday 12th March. Results at the next meeting.

Allocation of groups to policy areas Committee members were allocated areas as follows:

LC - Heritage.
BB & SC: Business
MW & AL - Environment
LW & SW – Infrastructure
JD - Housing and Design
Community TBA.

The Chair mentioned that there is guidance on how to write a policy. Look at other policies that have been written up. They should be short, sweet and to the point and in simple sentences. They are usually a couple of paragraphs. You may want to list documents that are evidence supporting the policy statement. We need to make sure that whatever we say, we have the evidence to support it. A progress check will be done at the end of April.

Local green spaces and designation.

The Chair stated that she thought this is key to the plan. One possible approach for us is not to allocate sites for development but to be clear where we do not want development. There is a list of greenspaces that have been identified from LC, KP and JD. We need to look at the allotments. The South Downs park consultancy expertise is in green space designation. KP had a long chat with them. They can either come in or look at what we are proposing, do assessments of what we have done. Identifying pluses and minuses and draw up our greenspace proposal or we can do the work and they can do a desk top exercise on it. KP thought it could be contentious area and it was best to get a third party to do this objectively. A green space consultation could be held before the fete.

A.O.B.

Some discussion then occurred concerning the **White Paper** and it was noted that Private developers will be helped by the government. Local communities are going to be given greater say in the determining of developments. They also want to help policies be easier. They want to help to clarify greenbelt boundaries. They want brown site development where possible. According the new formula, TVBC doesn't know what the housing requirement will be.

In summing up, some discussion took place concerning Dropbox charges. NFA at this point – we need to see how we use up the allocated data space.

BB informed the meeting another £1000 had been applied for and received from TVBC.

It was decided to continue on without a consultant for the time being. KP agreed to get a quote from South Downs.

Next meeting –Tuesday 7pm 28th March.