

Minutes of Little Hallingbury Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Thursday 30th May 2024 7.30pm.

Present: Cara Fitzgerald, Jane Fitzgerald, Donna Johnson, Brenda Layton, Sue Meyer, Val McKirdy, Keith Summerford. **Apologies:** Julie Franklin, Ben MacLean, Robert Wingard.

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Housing Needs Survey: The HNS report has now been received and the findings were presented and discussed. There is support for this project from those who responded and a need for more affordable housing was identified. The details will now be passed to Parish Council to decide how this project is taken forward and the findings communicated to residents.

Design Codes Report: The draft Design Code report was presented and discussed. The amendments required were agreed and will be sent to AECOM along with photographs which have been requested. The codes only come into force once the neighbourhood plan is adopted (or 'made'). Most design codes are appended to the neighbourhood plan with a design policy, along the lines of "development must have regard to the design codes". The proposals in the Design Code report will be communicated to Parish Council, UDC and residents prior to their inclusion in the LHNP. Once adopted the neighbourhood plan design policy will have the same weight as local plan policies.

Landscape Assessment Reports: The final drafts of the Landscape Assessment Study and Landscape Assessment Character Areas have been received from the planning consultants. These reports together form part of the evidence base for our Neighbourhood Plan and will be used when compiling the Plan.

The Landscape Assessment Study is intended to assist the Parish Council in making informed decisions to ensure that no unacceptable effects on the landscape result, due to construction in future and its special qualities are maintained and where possible, enhanced.

Encouragingly the conclusion is that the landscape and visual character of Little Hallingbury has been assessed as having a 'High' overall landscape sensitivity in most areas, where a policy of enhancing and reinforcing the rural and undeveloped character of the landscape is required. In two areas, every opportunity should be taken to restore and replace lost landscape features and field patterns to strengthen the contribution to local landscape character. Amendments required to these reports will be communicated shortly and the final versions will then be produced.

Little Hallingbury Neighbourhood Plan Vision Statement: A vision statement to ensure that a shared vision for the Little Hallingbury NP is adopted and reflects the views of residents, as expressed in the Residents Questionnaire was discussed. A 'Vision' for the LHNP was presented and agreed as shown below:

- **Over the period of this Plan Little Hallingbury will continue to be an attractive rural Village with a strong sense of community which continues to be a safe and desirable place to live.**
- **The countryside and green spaces around the Village will be preserved along with access to countryside walks, open views and wildlife habitats.**
- **The heritage buildings and assets which give the Village its character will be retained to be enjoyed by future generations.**
- **Housing development and improvements will respect the Green Belt boundaries and be in keeping with the character of the Parish, positively contributing to the immediate surroundings.**

Second Residents Questionnaire: This will be worked on over the next few months with a view to issuing this in the late autumn.

Steering Group Evidence: The piece written by CF for the LHNP on Little Hallingbury Present was reviewed and agreed.

Locality Grants: These have now re-opened which will allow us to obtain further funding for the LHNP.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 3rd JULY 2024 -7.30pm Little Hallingbury Village Hall