

Minutes of Little Hallingbury Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Monday 17th March 2025 7.30pm.

Present: Steve Gardiner, Donna Johnson, Brenda Layton, Val McKirdy, Sue Meyer, Keith Summerford, Robert Wingard. **Apologies:** Cara Fitzgerald, Jane Fitzgerald.

Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed. Queries raised with Nicky Joshua (NJ) RCCE have been responded to and will be discussed under relevant topics.

Welcome: Steve Gardiner was welcomed to the Steering Group.

Annual Parish Meeting March 2025: Residents were updated on Vision and NP Policies revisions. Display graphics added to LHNP website and publicised via Facebook and village magazine.

LHNP Website: Updated with recent consultation event. New menu created to document consultation history. Suggested adding an explanation of LHNP's importance for the next 20 years and its legal weight in planning once adopted. Action VM/RW to revise wording.

LHNP Policy Intentions: Discussed Design Code policy details. Decided to integrate salient points from Design and Guidance Code report into the Neighbourhood Plan. Agreed on introduction, rationale, NP policy CHAR 8, and Appendix with character area design codes. Policy includes guidelines for building heights, materials, and design elements to preserve village character while allowing appropriate development.

Parish Council Meeting: Suggested holding a separate meeting for Parish Council members to understand design codes and provide input. Action RW/VM to provide dates to SM to arrange.

Important Views Policy: Discussed methodology for assessing important views, including criteria like viewpoint users, view description, and key components. Working group to review and finalize list of important views at next working party meeting.

Local Green Spaces and Settlement Gaps Policy: Will consider areas for local green spaces and settlement gaps to avoid duplication with Important Views. JF to provide list of Local Green Spaces.

Further Evidence Gathering: Updates were given on ongoing evidence gathering, business survey, and community facilities survey. The need to address climate change and biodiversity policies.

Climate Change and Solar Panels: Insights from a presentation on climate change and solar panels, were shared, where it was suggesting that the village should consider taking control of renewable energy initiatives. More information will be obtained, and the topic will be discussed further.

Village Views article: the VV draft article for April was approved.

UDC Non-Designated Assets List (NDA) and Heritage Policy. The NDA's identified at the last Steering Group meeting will now be assessed to see if they can be included on UDC list. The Heritage policies in the NP's recommended by Nicky J RCCE will be reviewed to see if these are appropriate for Little Hallingbury NP. DJ/SG to review and report to next SG meeting.

Essex Unitary Authority. Work is underway to establish larger unitary councils in Essex—possibly five in total, each with around 400,000 residents. Once plans are finalised it is likely that planning will move from UDC to the new Unitary authority and housing allocation will be revised as a result. This will be kept under review to see how the changes may affect the work on the LHNP.

NEXT MEETING DATES: Working Party to discuss Landscape Policies Thursday 27th March 2025 2pm. Steering Group Meeting Wed 16th April at 7.30pm. Village Hall meeting room.