

Steering Group Meeting Notes by Zoom on the 5th May 2021 at 6.30pm

Present

Cllr Greenwood (Chair), Cllr Webb (V Chair), Cllr Allen-Shepherd and Cllr Redgewell

3 members of the public

Secretary

1. Apologies for absence

Steve Read

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. Questions from the Public

None

4. Approval of notes from previous meeting 7th April 2021

Item 7 - following some discussion it was agreed that no alterations were to be made

Item 8 NPIERS Response – the word ‘sympathetic’ to be added before response

Item 14 the words ‘the former’ to precede ‘working group’ in the first line and the words ‘as the large hall not available’ to be added to the end of the last but one sentence

Approved with the above amendments

5. Actions outstanding from Previous Meeting 7th April 2021

None

6. Chairmans Update

Examination of Part 2 of the Local Plan was underway and Tiptree was under scrutiny with questions raised regarding the ability of the NP to deliver the required housing. The Chairman sent a response which was accepted by the examiner for consideration along with a response from CBC.

Navigus working on policies and justifications

An email had been sent to Fenn Wright to ascertain demand for commercial properties

An email had been sent to the Clinical Commissioning Group to arrange a meeting at the end of May

7. Correspondence

A response had been received and noted from the RCCE expressing their sympathy on the Plan not being passed

8. Finance

£6000 had been allocated to the NP Budget and there was an additional £4000 added from borough councillors allowances.

April Expenditure was approx. £250 office costs, and approx. £700 consultant fees.

Grant programme 2021 information had been sent to councillors before the meeting with the additional facilities information regarding extra support for site viability.

Grant allowance left is £10,000, technical support discussed under item 10

9. Responses regarding deliverability at Tower End

A response had been received from Strutt and Parker and an acknowledgement from Savills who stated they would respond in due course

10. Strategic Environment Assessment Tender (SEA)

Navigus had prepared a brief that was sent to four companies to tender for the SEA task. The closing date for this was the 7th May 2021. Two of the companies were not able to assist in this instance due to work commitments, one company referred the tender back to Locality who contacted Secretary advising her that under the grant package they could offer a free service for the SEA but they wouldn't tender for it and needed to go through the grant application process and the other company had sent in a tender shortly before the meeting.

Secretary advised that grant applications are being dealt with quite quickly now and if were to go down that route an expression of interest form would need to be completed and then a grant application with a turnaround of 15 working days for outcome.

After much discussion it was proposed by Cllr Greenwood and seconded by Cllr Webb that as all responses/tenders had been received that the Secretary forward the tender received to the group and that if there were no exceptional reasons to accept the tender at a cost, then we should go ahead with the free service. Secretary should then proceed with a grant application once the Consultant/Clerk and CBC were contacted for their advice. This was agreed unanimously

Action Chairman to discuss with Navigus, Clerk and CBC and advise Secretary of outcome if she needs to make a grant application

11. To discuss meeting date for June Meeting when Zoom meetings were not permitted from the 6th May 21

It was agreed to go ahead with the scheduled meeting on the 2nd June 21 in the Small Hall under covid regulations. Should numbers exceed the permitted number allowed under covid regulations meeting would be cancelled on the evening.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

