

Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Heritage Group

Friday 24th March 2017 at 12.30pm in the John Brunt VC public house.

Present: Dorothy Cox, John and Meryl Flashman, Sarah Hamilton, Jean Saggars

Apologies: Fred Lamont, Jim Large

All attendees have an interest in the heritage of Paddock Wood with both Dorothy and Jean having specific areas of knowledge in the development of the town over the years and also the history of the railway station.

Sarah started the meeting by explaining about the Neighbourhood Plan and the call for sites by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. She also explained that a historic environment study is being undertaken by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

Sarah stated that the purpose of this group is to write a policy statement for the Neighbourhood Plan designed to protect the heritage of Paddock Wood.

A preliminary list of properties and sites recognised as having historical value was compiled:

Catts Place

Cottages on Maidstone Road

Cricket Pavilion

Foalhurst Wood (ancient woodland)

Green Lane Spinney

Hop Pickers Line – a fingerpost has been placed in Willow Lane to mark the route of the former railway

John Brunt VC Public House which is owned by Punch Taverns who are trying to sell the lease which has only three years left to run,

Some houses on part of Old Kent Road including Woodhurst

Mascalls Manor and adjacent cottages

Oast houses including converted ones

Old Bakehouse

Old Vicarage

Old Churchyard

Putlands farmhouse

Smarden Place (1918)

Station

Sunnycot

War Memorial,

Warrington Farmhouse

Wesley Centre- this could be protected on heritage grounds as well as for community use.

The Neighbourhood Plan could influence the design of new houses in Paddock Wood ie we could say that we want a variety of styles as that would fit in with the current image of Paddock Wood.

Sarah explained about the Future Growth Scenario booklet published by Fera Urbanism in February 2017. The key questions for the Heritage Group to consider were questions 12 to 15. Copies of the booklet to be provided to Jean and Dorothy by Sarah and Meryl as soon as possible.

It was agreed that the following were priorities for the group:

- A policy statement for the Neighbourhood Plan
- A history of the John Brunt Public House
- A history of Paddock Wood railway station
- To consider which of the green spaces in the town should be left as open space eg land owned by Paddock Wood Town Council on Badsell Road.

The next meeting is to be held on Friday 7th April at 12.30pm in the John Brunt. Dorothy Cox gave her apologies for this meeting.