



## **PADDOCK WOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP**

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### **VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 JULY 2021**

**PRESENT:** Meryl Flashman (Chairman), Rebecca Roberts, Richard Barsley, Carol Williams, Andrew Mackie, Mike Ridger, Tony Whetstone, Jon Herbert & Rodney Atkins

**ALSO PRESENT:** Karen Bell (Locum Clerk) & Kevina Turner

**APOLOGIES:** Christine Spicer & Jeremy Thompson

M. Flashman opened the meeting and welcomed all present including Karen Bell the Locum Clerk and Kevina Turner who was interested in joining the Steering Group.

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2021 were approved.
2. **INFORMATION ITEMS ARISING:** None
3. **MEMBERSHIP OF THE STEERING GROUP:** Kevina Turner had expressed an interest in joining the Steering Group and was invited to attend the meeting in an observational capacity. Kevina was invited by the Chairman to introduce herself to the group.
4. **KCC COMMERCIAL ROAD – PADDOCK WOOD IMPROVEMENT SCHEME:** KCC was currently consulting on three options to help improve pedestrian and cycling access to the main shopping area of Paddock Wood on Commercial Road and wanted to gather views from the community on the options presented to help identify the most appropriate scheme for the area. The aim of the consultation was to provide options for Commercial Road that addressed concerns raised previously but would still provide a more pleasant environment for walking and cycling and therefore encouraged the use of those travel methods. Following a discussion, it was:  
**RESOLVED:** That the Steering Group whilst supporting the views which had been submitted by PWTC would also comment as follows:  
**Unanimous**
  - The focus should be on the future of Paddock Wood

- Paddock Wood was being presented with a fantastic opportunity to transform the Town Centre which should not be lost.
- There was a need for engagement between Steering Group, PWTC, TWBC and KCC about what changes were needed to benefit Paddock Wood.
- Whilst PWTC did not suggest any alternatives to the 3 options presented by KCC it was encouraging to note the imaginative suggestions arising from the NP Steering Group.
- The installation of parklets in Commercial Road was worthy of further consideration. Parklets were what happened when parking spaces were transformed into a community space, e.g., with benches seats, planters etc. They also challenged the idea that kerbside space was only for car parking. A residential parklet could for instance be used as a resting point for people and a play area for children
- Any decisions needed to be made in conjunction with the Town Centre regeneration, the NP and the LP and be part of a joined up, project.
- It would be preferable for the funding allocation to be earmarked and used towards the NP long term aims and ambitions for Paddock Wood.

## **5. FEEDBACK FROM TROY PLANNING**

- Waiting for AECOM work to be completed so that it could be incorporated into the NP.
- A final draft of the Town Centre Chapter had been prepared and would be circulated soon after the meeting. Comments were invited so that this chapter could be finalised
- Recent research had indicated that NP Independent Examiners had raised questions on other NPs regarding green space designation. Pre-empting similar questions arising in respect of the PW NP it was suggested that the landowners could be consulted to ensure that they were on board with regard to the proposed green space designation within the PW NP. This was agreed.

**Unanimous**

## **6. FEEDBACK FROM AECOM**

- Representatives from Aecom visited PW on 14 July 2021 when they were met by 3 members of the Steering Group including M. Flashman and A. Mackie. There was a brief discussion with Aecom about Paddock Wood, its history and heritage and M. Flashman provided them with photographs of traditional designs that were favoured in Paddock Wood. The Aecom representatives then visited the town and took photographs. It was hoped

that the draft report would have been available for week commencing 19 July so that it could have been shared at this meeting.

7. **UPDATE FROM SPORTS AND RECREATION GROUP:** No update. To be progressed.
8. **RETURN TO FACE TO FACE MEETINGS:** Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED:** That virtual meetings would continue. **Unanimous**
9. **ANY OTHER INFORMATION**
  - 9.1 **Facebook Report:** The report prepared on 13 July 2021 and copied to members of the SG was received and noted.
  - 9.2 **Town Crier:** The article which had appeared in the August edition was noted.
  - 9.3 **New SG Member:** M. Flashman asked Kevina Turner if she would like to join the Steering Group. Kevina said that a lot of very interesting information had been imparted and she would like to join. This was agreed.  
**Unanimous**
10. **DATE OF NEXT STEERING GROUP MEETING:** Confirmed as Wednesday 18 August 2021.

There being no additional businesses, the meeting concluded at 20.45 hours.