

“Knebworth aims to be a vibrant, inclusive and independent village community which will accommodate sustainable growth and development in its population and services, whilst ensuring that its fundamental rural character is maintained.”

Notes of Knebworth NP Steering Committee meeting held on 1st November 2017, 8pm in the Village Hall

Present: Clint Bull (CB, chair)
Graham Dormer (GD, vice chair)
Penny Berry (PB)
Gareth Hawkins (GH)
Paul Ambrose (PA)
Robert Sprigge (RS) - Note taker

Apologies: Paul Ward (PW, KPC)
Bob Hall (BH)
Jenny Harrison (JH, KPC)
Claire Graham (CG, KPC)
Steve Hemingway (SH, KPC)

1. Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on 10th October 2017 were agreed.

- Matters arising

Update on actions from previous meeting awaited from PW and CG (Transport executive]

2. General Updates

• Group Objectives, Visions

- High level Vision:

Knebworth aims to be a vibrant, inclusive and independent village community which will accommodate sustainable growth and development in its population and services, whilst ensuring that its fundamental rural character is maintained.

The meeting agreed that this version covered our views very well without tying the Neighbourhood plan down to specific detail, which would not be appropriate for the top level vision. This would be available at subsequent meetings.

- Group Objectives were shared and compared. There were varying formats, but this was not considered to be a concern. Subjects without a vision so far should be made available for the next meeting. Significant overlap of the subjects was observed. Examples were discussed, notably Open spaces and Character. The overlaps were considered to be understandable, and indeed desirable, in order to produce a coherent NP.

PA took an action to produce a diagram showing the Group subjects and how they overlap.

It was decided that a register of existing Open spaces be produced in order that preservation of them can be considered as part of the NP. [The 2007 KPP refers to ‘Protect the sense of ‘greenness’ within the villages by resisting the development of amenity land and open spaces and the loss of trees, hedges and grass verges. But does not offer any list of such areas.]

- **Any progress or meetings**

- See matters arising

3. Mini Centre

The concept was discussed and it was agreed that a 'mini-centre' probably in KB2, off Gypsy lane would be desirable probably incorporating a school. A better term than Mini-centre would be needed. The primary reasons for advocating a mini-centre are to reduce the traffic using the railway bridges and also enable facilities to be accessible by walking for those living in KB2, KB1 and the western side of existing housing. It was noted that without such a centre many household would be more likely to travel to Broadwater / Stevenage than the centre of Knebworth.

Given that the NP is to cover around the next 15 years it was decided that current Government policies for schools should not constrain our thinking.

4. KNP Open Day

There was a discussion on whether an Open day would distract our work on the plan itself, however this was discounted. An Open day would encourage the residents to feel involved and would focus the team on a date as the survey had a year earlier. It would aid the coalescing of the Visions, Objectives and (initial) Policies. Late January was proposed for the Open day, GD to check availability of the Village hall.

It was agreed that other community groups should be invited to participate.

5. Application for funding

[Update to be inserted here]

6. Date of next meeting

Thursday 14th December 2017, 8pm Village Hall, Main Hall.