

## Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting

Held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024 lower room, Kingsdown Village hall, 7pm

Attendees: Cllr Jez Hermer (chair), Cllr Sharon Hogben, Cllr Mark Edwards, Ian Williams, Nick Ross, Anna Fitzmaurice, Pat Bishop, Roger Highton and Jim Boot joined remotely.

Apologies: Gill Hogbin, Kim Hogbin, Mark Thursten

### **1 Green Spaces assessments / surveys**

A number of us from the Environment and Heritage working group accompanied by Jim Boot met up at Church Cliffe, Kingsdown on 12<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30 pm. We surveyed a number of sites including land adjoining the Church yard, a piece of chalk remnant grassland rich in pyramidal orchids, and a paddock. Jim showed us how to use the survey forms. We aim to meet on the 27<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30 on the beach by the Zetland pub in Kingsdown. Next time we meet we will have objectives and start filling out a google map shared by Jim. We will be able to put all the assets on there and notes on a spreadsheet. Sharon to share the groups emails with Jim to facilitate the sharing of the map and spreadsheet through dropbox.

For those who were not able to join either of these surveying outings there will be plenty more as there are lots of assets to document.

We need to recruit some residents from Ringwould to do surveying. Currently we only have Cllr Mark Edwards on the list.

### **2 Heritage Assets and views**

Following on from green space assessments we will also be documenting heritage assets and views.

### **3 NP Questionnaire to all households**

The Langdon questionnaire was circulated to the steering group by Jim as a proposed framework to build on. Alison Eardley although not present at this meeting has made comments on the relevance of this to our NP. She noted that Langdon had little public engagement before delivering their survey, we have had much more, already gathering a lot of information at our initial launch meeting. It is therefore perhaps not relevant to ask what is good, bad and what needs changing in the Parish but instead ask more structured questions based on what we already know.

Alison thought it would be a good idea to share lists of green spaces and heritage assets identified so far so that we can get support for them and comments. We could also ask people to suggest view points in the parish that are special and ask for reasons why.

Alison thought that we should be clear about the purpose of the survey. This thought was echoed by Nick Ross, we should only ask questions that we have a use for the information we are getting. It is also important that whatever information we get can be analysed properly.

We are covering 4 key areas:

*Housing matters*

*Environment and Heritage*

### *Movement and Transport*

#### *Community infrastructure.*

We also need a section at the front about the person filling in the survey – age range, where they live etc.

Jim also pointed out that the Herefordshire survey is also worth looking at to get ideas about what to include – particularly on transport.

It was thought that the survey should start with tick box questions which are easy and engaging. Alison can put the survey together in Survey Monkey for us.

We then went through the Langdon survey and looked at the questions.

*Housing section* – Cllr Mark Edwards volunteered to look at this section. Some of the questions in this section are answered in the 2021 Census and so not relevant. We also have the housing needs survey which was carried out for us by AECOM, which means that we do not need to ask some of the Langdon questions. We could ask questions about how residents feel about 2<sup>nd</sup> homes and holiday homes with relation to restricting this in new developments.

Jim agreed to look into the housing needs survey which was sent out after the DDC LDP consultation. Perhaps there is specific data for our Parish which we can use.

It is important that we find out the needs of the person filling out the survey. We need to ask “what are your housing needs now and in the future, so that you, your children, your elderly parents can stay in the community and not be forced to leave?”.

Jim recommended that Mark read the executive summary of the housing needs assessment.

Nick made the point that we need more smaller homes for the elderly, single people and starter homes. This need was also highlighted in the housing needs assessment from AECOM.

Alison suggested that we may want to include a question around sustainable design of development / community led energy schemes? There might be some good prompts here: <https://www.cse.org.uk/resource/how-green-is-my-plan-rural-2/> Would be good to gauge relative support for e.g. design – solar panels, reducing water usage etc.

Instead of talking about numbers of development – we have the LDP figures of 65 across the parish which are unlikely to change – we need to look in this section about types of housing needed in the future.

We could ask the question “do you see a requirement for more development than is proposed in the LDP?”

### *Environment and Heritage*

Roger volunteered to be the lead on this section.

The Langdon survey has 2 questions on this section which talk about 1. how important issues such as hedges and woodlands maintenance, provision of litter bins, fly tipping, street cleaning etc 2. How important all the countryside features are eg woodlands, hedges, green fields.

It was thought that these 2 questions do not tell us much as everyone would be in agreement that all of these are important. Instead perhaps we can direct them to important views already identified, heritage and green space assets lists on the website and they can put in their top 5 of each?

Alison suggested that we could ask the residents to suggest any view points in the parish that are special to them and why.

### *Movement and Transport*

Pat Bishop has volunteered to be lead on this. The questions asked on the Langdon survey about how people travel to work and to leisure activities were thought to be irrelevant. It is known that 38.1% of people in the Parish work from home within the community.

She would like all the members of the working group to contact her. Sharon Hogben to action this.

The major issues questions were thought to be relevant – these need tailoring to our Parish with a view to linking the 2 villages and the A258.

We also need more searching questions about walking and cycling.

### *Community Infrastructure*

Anna Fitzmaurice has volunteered to lead on this section. She would like some assistance on this.

The Langdon survey has a list of facilities and local services and how often they are used. It was thought that this has relevance but the how often you use them columns need changing so that the information is more easily analysed and useful. We could point to a list of facilities and services on the website and ask them to be ranked?

Too much emphasis was placed on the church in the Langdon survey. We could instead focus attention on the village halls and perhaps ask if there is a need for a new purpose built hall that serves both parishes?

Nick Ross raised that point that we need to examine if we are failing commercially in the village in encouraging people to spend money here? Are we supporting local businesses? We need to ask the right questions to get this information.

### *General Questions*

This section needs to be at the start.

Need to know age range of person filling out survey, postcode, number of people in the household and age groups, also what are the occupations of persons of working age in the household and if they work from home or travel – or should this go in movement and transport?

The meeting closed at 9pm and the next meeting was arranged for 7pm on 17<sup>th</sup> July in the Kingsdown Village Hall lower room.