**KINGTON AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP**

**Consisting of the Parish and Town Councils**

**Kington Town Council Kington Rural and Huntington Parish Council**

**Lower Harpton Parish Council**

**Minutes of a Meeting held on 13th December 2016 at The Old Police Station, Kington**

**Present:** M.Fitton (Chair)

 M.Lloyd (Huntington)

 R.Bradbury, R. Widdowson (KIngton)

**In Attendance**: two members of the public.

**Apologies for Absence**: J.Jones

**Minutes of a Meeting held on 11th October 2016**

**Agreed** as Correct

**Matters arising from the Minutes**

None

**Update on Draft Policies for Huntington**

M.Lloyd reported that the Parish Steering Committee had met and considered the draft Description and Policies relevant to Huntington; the Committee had made a positive response and had not suggested any amendments to the document.

It was noted that a policy is now included that refers to **Policy RA5** of the Core Strategy, ‘The Re-use of Redundant or Disused Buildings in Rural Areas’. This policy is not an ‘exceptions’ policy and allows the conversion of such buildings for residential use without being tied to a commercial enterprise. It could therefore be a means of enabling Huntington to increase its population by a small number.

It was **agreed** that the policy is also relevant for Kington Rural and Lower Harpton and has been referred to in the Draft document to cover that area.

M.Lloyd was thanked for his work on producing the Huntington draft document.

**Update on Draft Policies for Kington Rural and Lower Harpton**.

R.Bradbury reported that a Draft document had been produced similar in form to the Huntington one. It had been presented to the Parish Council Meeting held a few days previously. Councillors had decided that they needed more time to consider it and would produce comments at their next Meeting, scheduled for early in 2017.

**Update on discussions on Improving Kington High Street**.

M. Fitton reported that the Chamber of Trade had been given a document summarising several options and would discuss it at a meeting. Kington Town Council had held a Special Meeting on 12th December and discussed the options at some length. The general consensus of the meeting was that a two-way traffic system should be retained, that some form of clearly marked shared space would be the preferred solution; that a shared surface induces slower vehicles and, if clearly engineered, could make the High Street a place where pedestrians have priority.

M.F. reported that Clare Rawlings, the KANDP consultant, had advised that a Policy of general support for any appropriately engineered solution would be the best type of statement for the Plan.

The meeting **agreed** to accept this advice, recognising that to arrive at any specific solution requires resources and a time period that would not be practicable at present.

It was **agreed** that a speed limit reduction to 20mph throughout the town should be required irrespective of any other alterations.

MF reported that CR had given similar advice about the need to review and amend the **Conservation Area of the Town**.

**Meeting with Clare Rawlings**.

MF reported that CR had suggested that he should meet with Herefordshire Council Officers to review progress and to set a schedule of work in 2017 with the intention of having a whole draft Plan prepared by Easter.

The meeting noted that sections on the economy and tourism need to be drafted. Data on the occupancy of the High Street, types of employment throughout the area, as well as demographic data need to be obtained from Hereford Council. A meeting has been arranged for February 7th.

A record of all meetings, consultations etc. needs to be compiled to provide evidence of community involvement to this stage; RB will draft

**Date of next meeting: TBA**