**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 September 2016 at the Old Police Station, Kington**

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

 M.Lloyd (Huntington)

 E. Banks, R. Bradbury, S. Williams (SW left the Meeting after 30 minutes)

In attendance: F.Hawkins (KTCllr)

 3 members of the public

**Apologies for Absence**: R. Widdowson

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th July 2016**

**Agreed** as correct

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

It was reported by a member of the public that one resident of Kington Park claimed that they had not received a letter of invitation to the meeting on July 14th.

RB reported that she had personally hand delivered a letter to every house on the estate.

**AECOM Report on possible housing sites K12 and K13, Kington**.

MF said that the report will be placed on the website shortly, together with an introductory note to explain the background and to emphasise that it is not a Planning Application but is a professional assessment of the suitability of the area for housing together with a schematic drawing of how it might be developed with appropriate landscaping. A print copy will be in the Library and a further one in the Town Council Office.

MF reported that there had been some technical problems with the website during August which had now been resolved and R. Cotterill had agreed to be responsible for overseeing it.

**Report on meeting held on July 14th for residents living near proposed sites K12 and K13**.

Approximately 80 people had attended the meeting, nearly all were residents of Kington Park, Old Eardisley Road, south side of Headbrook and Kingswood Road.

A note of the meeting is attached, including a summary of comments submitted at the meeting and in written notes subsequently. Most of the queries/comments were focussed on the proposed access road via a turning off the northern end of the Old Eardisley Road.

Mr I. Caney questioned the basis for the choice of sites and asked for clarification of KTC Minutes of a meeting held by the Council on 30.11.2015. MF referred him to the KTC Clerk

**Report on discussions with Officers from HC Forward Planning**.

MF and RB had met with officers to ask that HC provide advice as to suitability of sites K12 and K13 as well as KR1 at Lower Hergest.

MF explained that HC has the responsibility of assessing whether the sites would be acceptable for development, using HC’s Strategic Housing Land Assessment criteria. If HC were to deem the sites unsuitable then it would be unwise to recommend them in the Plan because on Inspection the Plan would not be acceptable. Officers said that their specialist staff had been asked to conduct preliminary assessments that would be sent to us when ready.

**Housing sites in Kington Rural Area**.

MF reminded the Committee that the Core Strategy has designated Hergest as a location where a quota of about 16 houses should be accommodated. KR1, near Arrow View, had been identified by the Group as potentially suitable. The AECOM consultant had had a brief look at it and reported that, despite most people considering it to be a ‘brownfield’ site, some or all of it might be assessed as a Priority Habitat and might therefore not be acceptable for development.

Members who have walked the site remarked that the ground contains many remains of the bases of the army huts and that secondary growth now covers most of the site. There is no suggestion that development would be below the northern edge of the scarp bordering the river valley.

MF said that once identification of site(s) in Hergest are agreed a Settlement Boundary will need to be drawn that will show the limitation of an area for development and any land beyond would be deemed to be open countryside.

**Public Consultation on a draft PLAN**.

The Committee felt that if possible consultation should be in November in a suitable location in Kington, with copies also available in Huntington.

Possible venues in Kington discussed were the Old Police Station, large room, for one week, Kington Library in the room on the second floor, a shop in the Town centre, the Market Hall. Some of the venues have restricted opening times so possibly two venues could be useful. There will also be a large screen in the Library on which to post information.

*RB to investigate further*.

MF reported that Claire Rawlings is available to work on a draft during the autumn; it is important to receive comments from Forward Planning before a public consultation.

**Any Other Business**

In response to queries re the **website**, MF said he will provide a report at the next meeting.

A report on discussions about what might be included in the PLAN about the **High Street**, since it is recognised as an important part of the Economy of the neighbourhood, will be prepared for the next meeting.

**Date of next Meeting: agreed Tuesday, 11th October 2016 at 7.30pm.**