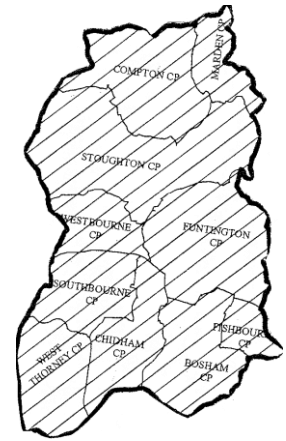


The Bournes Community Forum

Minutes of Meeting held in Compton Primary School,
Thursday 30th June 2016 at 7pm



Present:

Bosham Parish Council

Cllr Myles Cullen (CDC)
Cllr Mrs Penny Plant (CDC)

Chidham and Hambrook Parish Council

Cliff Archer
Andy Collins
Linda Wilkinson

Compton Parish Council

John Popplewell
Martin Edney
Ranjit Verghese

Funtington Parish Council

Nick La Hive

Marden Parish Meeting

Gary Judd

Thorney Island

Tim Kenealy

Westbourne Parish Council

Nigel Ricketts
Richard Hitchcock

Chichester District Council

Cllr Robert Hayes – Councillor Representative, Bournes Community Forum
Dave Hyland - Forum Administrator
Holly Nichol – Rural Housing Enabler
Cllr Mrs Susan Taylor – Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning
Michael Rowland – Emergency Planning Officer

West Sussex County Council

Peter Lawrence – Principal Community Officer, Arun and Chichester

Apologies:

Linda Grange, Housing Delivery Manager, CDC
Barry Clarke, Marden Parish Meeting
Geoff Hand, Fishbourne Parish Council

1.0	Welcome; John Popplewell, Compton Parish Council
1.1	Mr Popplewell welcomed the Forum to the Compton, and to the Community Hall which is both a Hall for the School and the wider community.
2.0	Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising
2.1	No corrections identified, the minutes were then approved.
2.2	No matters arising not already covered by the Agenda.
3.0	Holly Nichol, Rural Housing Enabler CDC and Cllr Mrs Susan Taylor, Cabinet Holder for Housing and Planning CDC – “Meeting the Housing aspirations of our children”
3.1	In Linda Grange’s absence, Holly and Cllr Mrs Taylor has come to the Forum to make a presentation that was being delivered to all Community Forums in the District, with regard to the need for, and the changes in provision of, affordable housing in the District. The presentation slides and a copy of the handout are appended to the minutes.
3.2	<p>Questions from the floor</p> <p>Mr Archer, Chidham and Hambrook PC, asked for clarification regarding Exception Sites. Formerly, these had to be sites that were adjacent to the Settlement Policy Area as defined in the Local Plan. Has this changed?</p> <p>Holly said she would check and confirm in the minutes. Post Meeting: <i>“I have now checked the plan and Policy 35 (of the new Local Plan) states: Where there are no available and deliverable sites within a settlement affordable housing may be permitted on exception sites outside of Settlement Boundaries to meet a specific local need where one of the two following criteria is met:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. In settlements that have a defined Boundary, proposals should be located adjacent to the Boundary and in all circumstances be modest in scale and well related to the settlement, local services and facilities; or</i> <i>2. In the rest of the plan area, schemes will only be permitted where it is considered that the proposal is modest in scale and can be integrated to an existing settlement without damage to its character or setting and is well related to local services and facilities.”</i> <p>Mr La Hive, Funtington PC, highlighted a personal experience with trying to convert a Grade II listed property back into residential use that could have been let for affordable accommodation – but the requirements of the Planners made the project unviable and were abandoned. Cllr Mrs Taylor confirmed that any proposals have to be in conformity with Planning requirements.</p> <p>Cllr Cullen highlighted the issue of Land ownership and value in unlocking sites for use. Cllr Mrs Taylor confirmed that she was talking to Landowners to try and encourage their active participation on projects for example the establishment of Community Land Trusts (CLTs) where ownership can be retained in perpetuity. Cllr Cullen suggested that a seat on the Board could be helpful in gaining their cooperation.</p> <p>Mr La Hive, Funtington PC, was concerned to note the emphasis on the under 40s and highlighted the plight of agricultural workers who lost their tenant properties when they were unable to continue their employment. Holly confirmed that the age restriction related just to the Government Starter Homes scheme, the other schemes talked about were not restricted in the same way.</p> <p>Mr Verghese, Compton PC, asked whether CLTS were restricted to greenfield land, shouldn’t brownfield land be used? Cllr Mrs Taylor confirmed that any land could be considered but its suitability would need to be considered in gaining Planning Permission – typically brownfield land would be easier given its former use.</p>

	<p>Mrs Wilkinson, Chidham and Hambrook PC, asked about a survey of HydeMartlet tenants regarding the then proposed realignment within the wider Hyde Housing Association. Had CDC been consulted on this decision? Holly was uncertain, but confirmed that Hyde's clear purpose is now on housing delivery, and as with other large Housing providers is looking at developing sites for both commercial housing (for sale on the open market) and affordable tenancies, as a means of funding the latter with the former.</p> <p>Mr Archer, Chidham and Hambrook PC, highlighted concerns regarding Hyde tenants and their problems with contacting Hyde regarding property repairs. Cllr Cullen summarised the process where Hyde were called in to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee about these and other issues following increasing dissatisfaction from a number of Councillors. Cllr Mrs Taylor confirmed that Hyde representatives were now meeting regularly with the Head of Housing, and District Councillors had direct contact details for Hyde if they were championing a specific issue for a constituent.</p>
3.3	Holly and Cllr Mrs Taylor concluded by highlighting Rural Housing Week (week comm. 11 th July 2016) which would include an exhibition about the options highlighted at East Pallant House, press articles including radio interviews, and a leaflet to be circulated to a number of outlets including all Parish Councils.
4.0	Prior to the refreshment break, Cllr Hayes asked for the Forum to consider endorsing the call to Councils to condemn hate crime in the local area. This was supported by the Forum.
4.1	Mr Archer, Chidham and Hambrook PC, asked if any Parishes present had experience of owning and managing either allotments or orchards, to make themselves known to him in the break as he would welcome their guidance.
5.0	Michael Rowland, Emergency Planning Officer, CDC. "Emergency Planning Presentation to Community Forums"
5.1	Mr Rowland gave an overview of his role, the role of the District Council in how agencies respond to emergencies and what communities and individuals can do to further their own resilience in times of crisis. The presentation slides are appended to these minutes.
5.2	<p>Questions from the floor</p> <p>Mr Archer, Chidham and Hambrook PC, asked how the Royal Artillery Regiments based at Thorney Island would respond to a local incident. Mr Kenealy, Station Staff Officer, responded that they are directed by Army HQ South East at 11 Brigade, Aldershot. Mr Rowland confirmed that he understood that any request for the involvement of the Armed Forces had to be sanctioned by the Government (Department for Communities and Local Government). While there could be circumstances where this local involvement would be both positive and welcomed, there also had to be considerations of what community impact there maybe of the armed forces were seen to be involved, and the perceptions of civil unrest. Mr La Hive, Funtington PC, also highlighted the potential incompatibility of resources – the armed forces used very expensive and specialist kit which may not be the most appropriate for civil contingencies, and gave an example of differing power supplies.</p> <p>Mr Edney, Compton PC, highlighted the issue of communications in an emergency and the difficulties of getting a mobile phone signal in Compton. Recent applications for a new mast have been declined by the SDNPA despite the application coming from a government backed national programme and the support of the Parish referencing the need in emergencies.</p>

	<p>Mr Popplewell, Compton PC, highlighted concerns about getting volunteers to assist in an emergency and their personal liability in case things went wrong. Mr Rowland referred to the Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism (SARAH) Act 2015, which gives some reassurance to potential volunteers that they may not be held liable if things turn out badly.</p> <p>Post meeting –</p> <p>The bill can be found here: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/3/pdfs/ukpga_20150003_en.pdf</p> <p>Government notes regarding the bill can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/social-action-responsibility-and-heroism-bill-fact-sheet</p> <p>An independent comment about the bill can be found here: http://www.shoosmiths.co.uk/client-resources/legal-updates/sarah-to-the-rescue-social-action-responsibility-act-2015-9620.aspx</p>
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6.0	Neighbourhood Plans
6.1	<p>Cllr Hayes started by giving an update regarding Southbourne. The accuracy of a pencil line drawn on one of the original maps has caused Southbourne some issues as a planning application has been submitted for a plot that was not intended for development by the NP Group but is technically within the area designated by the map. They remain hopeful that the intent of the Parish is recognised and the application will be declined, but it is a key message to other groups to check, check and check again to ensure that their final documents are correct.</p> <p>Southbourne NP was one of three shortlisted for “Award for Neighbourhood Planning” at “The Planning Awards” (national scheme).</p>
6.2	<p>Bosham – The Examiner is not happy about Housing allocation within the AONB and as a result all allocations have been removed from the NP. In order to avoid further delay the Plan will still go to local referendum, but Chichester District Council will separately consult on an “Allocations Document” which will determine the site/s for housing.</p>
7.3	<p>Chidham and Hambrook – local referendum is to take place in September, although local advertising and promotion has yet to start, waiting for the recent news of the nationwide Referendum over EU membership to settle down. They are currently considering locations to deposit hard copies of the Plan for public inspection.</p> <p>Highlighted an issue with a local shop – Plan is supportive of a new grocery store and had initial meetings with an agent who seemed to be committing to deliver the same. Now transpires that the proposal is for a charity shop which is within the same Planning usage clause (Class A) – residents likely to be disappointed.</p>
7.4	<p>Compton – Not proceeding. Some local cynicism about their potential value – local issues regarding the declined application for a phone mast and the long held aspiration for reduced traffic speed indicate that the wishes of residents are ignored by decision makers. Mr Ricketts (Westbourne PC) suggested that were a planning application re the phone mast resubmitted then this is something that the Forum should support, to add weight.</p>
7.5	<p>Funtington – no progress to report.</p>
7.7	<p>Westbourne – currently reviewing responses to their pre-submission consultation. There are a number of comments from residents about the large number of Gypsy and Traveller sites, disproportionate to the levels elsewhere in the District, that have been permitted in the parish. There is a strong desire to see these limited through the NP, and they are exploring what could be introduced as a suitable Policy/ies.</p>

8.0	Any Other Business
8.1	Cllr Hayes shared the Highways England newsletter published earlier in the day which confirmed the dates of the long awaited public consultation, as well as the date and locations of public exhibitions to be held in some key locations. Information can be found at: http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/a27-chichester-improvement/

9.0	Date of Future Meetings		
	Date	Time	Venue
Bournes Community Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24th November 2016 	7.00pm	TBC – any parish willing to host please contact Dave Hyland
All Parishes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28th September 2016 	6.00/7.00pm	East Pallant House, Chichester