

Transport, Access, Housing and Parking Focus Group

Meeting 3

1st October 2012 7.30pm

Present: Andrew Grimes (Chair), Maureen Erdwin, Mike Knowles, David Syrad, Ian Young, Nora Muir, Norman Gould, Jeff Curtis, David Murray-Cox.

Attending: Katy Hughes (SPC Meeting secretary).

Apologies: Marjory Bisset, Eddie Brown, Merrill Brydon, Luis Mendiz, Ray Sharp, Clare Grimes, Colin Green, Janet Green, Marlene Voke, Brian Voke, Margaret Hills, Dominic Pawson.

1. **Welcome and introductions**

Andrew Grimes thanked all those present for attending the meeting.

2. **Minutes**

The minutes were approved as a true reflection of the previous meeting, subject to the following addition:

Addition to item 5.1 - Attendees at the meeting discussed the issue of three storey houses and the reference in the Parish Plan for not having three storey properties. Attendees also discussed parking standards, and expressed a wish for parking standards to be at the upper end for the borough, as Shinfield Parish is rural, and therefore car ownership is expected to be higher.

Andrew Grimes spoke about the existing parish plan and noted that it is available for anyone to read via the Shinfield parish council website.

3. **Terms of Reference**

Copies of the TAH focus group "Guidance on Housing and Parking" (previously circulated) were tabled. Andrew Grimes explained that the document is largely taken from the parish plan, but looking specifically at deliverables. The document was approved by attendees, subject to a minor spelling correction.

4. **TAH Focus Group Communications Strategy**

Copies of the communications document (previously circulated) were tabled at the meeting. Ian Young spoke about the use of Drop-box by the Shinfield Volunteer Group. Drop-box is an online storage facility which would allow all interested parties

to view documentation from the group, as well as add items and comments to the issues log.

It was proposed and agreed that two files be created in the folder, one editable and one read only, which Katy Hughes will update with issues once they have been reviewed and are deemed not to be duplicates.

Ian Young spoke about the group rules for using drop box. Attendees agreed the document, to be put to the parish council Communications and Policies committee for approval, subject to the following amendment:

Proposal 3 should read

“The Drop-Box facility can be made available on request to any focus group member, resident, employer or employee within Shinfield Parish”

It was agreed that Ian Young will transfer ownership of the existing TAH Focus Group folder to Katy Hughes.

5. Issues Log review and comments

Andrew Grimes explained the concept of the issues log and the way items have been categorised. Andrew Grimes explained that the initial task of the group is to determine what the issues are. He explained that some of the items are aspirations and others are issues that require protection through the development process.

Attendees spoke about concerns regarding roundabout design causing traffic flow problems (TAH21a and TAH21b) and road widths on new estates (TAH36).

Attendees requested that the issues log be put into category order. It was agreed that Katy Hughes would put the table into an excel format to allow users to filter and view items by category.

Andrew Grimes noted that the focus group does require some representation from local Road Haulage groups, and that he will speak to React, who are based on the Lambs Lane industrial estate.

Attendees spoke about the need to link up areas of the communities through footpaths and footways which are missing or unclear in places (TAH03a, TAH08, TAH15, TAH22a, TAH23a, TAH33, TAH35). Mike Knowles confirmed that the developers will be required to put a pedestrian and cycling plan into place as part of the overall planning process. He confirmed that developer 106 contributions is permissible be used to fund improvement of pedestrian footpaths and footways.

Maureen Erdwin spoke about issues of wheelchair and disabled access within the community and specifically about areas of footpath which are too narrow for wheelchair users. It was noted that this is considered as part of new developments and is-

sues log item TAH70 is in place to look at improvements to existing infrastructure. It was also noted that existing bus services are not always meeting disabled user needs as many buses on the existing routes are not accessible for wheelchair users.

Andrew Grimes raised concerns to the developers' representatives about the risk of new subsidised bus services which the developers are obliged to put in place, causing a loss of users for existing bus services, and potentially threatening their viability (TAH34). Norman Gould noted that there needs to be an implementation plan in place to ensure that this does not happen.

Andrew Grimes asked attendees to discuss the items on the issues log with friends and neighbours, and that at the next meeting items will be reviewed in greater detail. It was noted that aspirations that are deemed undeliverable will be removed from the issues log.

6. Any Other Business

Andrew Grimes spoke about the WBC draft tenancy strategy. Norman Gould reported that WBC were proposing to change the principle of 'tenancy for life' and that council tenants will need to prove their requirement for subsidised housing still exists. The changes will also look to ensure that individuals and families are moved to properties of a more appropriate size as their circumstances change.

Attendees noted that there was a shortage of properties suitable for the elderly. Katy reported that WBC are looking at alternative means of providing council housing, including refurbishing existing council properties, self builds within development sites at lower cost, rural exception sites and terraces of cottages rather than single bedroom flats.

Andrew Grimes asked attendees to consider whether the strategic tenancy strategy will affect how developers deliver affordable housing and whether it will affect community cohesion, and whether the mix of housing required needs to be reconsidered.

Andrew Grimes asked Norman Gould to draft an issue to be added to the issues log regarding the draft tenancy strategy.

Andrew Grimes spoke about the need to improve the electricity supply and the desire to increase access to fibre optic cables for existing residences. Norman Gould raised concerns to the developer representatives present regarding drainage issues and the overloaded existing drainage systems and problems with surface water. Norman Gould commented that existing agricultural drainage facilities are no longer maintained, because the land is not used for farming any more.

Maureen Erdwin raised an issue of rats being displaced by building work on new developments. It was agreed that the issue would be raised to the environment group.

7. Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 7th November 2012 at 19.30hrs. It was agreed to move the December meeting to Wednesday 12th at 19.30 hrs.

The meeting ended at 21.45 hrs.