

Annual Statutory meeting of the Council

Monday 24 May 2021

Agenda Item 17.0(ii)

TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

The Steering Group have been working hard to review all of the documentation, to ensure it is up to date and reflects the changes that have occurred in the past 12-18 months. This takes into account references to the rejected Wealden DC's Local Plan submission, the covid pandemic and current pressure from developers for the build of major planning applications around the periphery of the town. More evidence/data has also become available which needs to be incorporated within the reports.

Underpinning the overarching Draft Neighbourhood Plan document sits a Character Assessment for the town, a Local Green Spaces report, and five themed subgroup working papers which contain the evidence and information for the objectives and policy areas under the themes of:

Design & Development

Environment & Health

Infrastructure & Recreation

Local Economy

Transport & Access

Although the steering group itself had not met recently, the Chair of the Steering Group and Town Clerk met with the Wealden DC's Planning Policy team and Action in Rural Sussex to discuss the next steps, and how the development of the plan and timescales for delivery would align with the development of Wealden DC's Local Plan. A number of further studies would be commissioned by Wealden DC to help update their evidence base for the Wealden Local Plan, and it was helpful to understand that any outcomes or information from these studies would be highlighted to the Uckfield Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to ensure the Uckfield Plan remained relevant and policies could be updated accordingly.

Confirmation was given that Wealden DC would meet the costs of the referendum when the time comes.

In the meantime, Action in Rural Sussex would work with the Uckfield Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to update the project plan, and provide a copy of this and any other relevant information to keep Wealden DC's Planning Policy team updated on our progress.

Town Clerk