

Planning & Infrastructure Policy Development Advisory Group
12 SEPTEMBER 2023

Present: Councillors: John Milne (Chairman), Peter van der Borgh, Philip Circus, Mike Croker, Len Ellis-Brown, Alex Jeffery, Liz Kitchen, Joanne Knowles and Lynn Lambert

Apologies: Councillors: Malcolm Eastwood
Absent: Councillors: Clive Trott

Also Present: Councillors: Joanne Knowles, Josh Potts, Roger Noel, Dennis Livingstone, Paul Clarke, Jon Olson and James Brookes.

9 **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The notes of the Planning & Infrastructure PDAG meeting held on 27th of June 2023 were received.

10 **HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY**

A presentation on Horsham District Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy was provided. It is being undertaken to ensure the strategy remains up to date and is in accordance with revised national guidance published by Natural England in January 2023.

When the current strategy was reviewed by officers, it was felt that the vision and strategic aspirations remained relevant, the actions for site promoters were less relatable and therefore it is difficult to secure principles in development when applications were submitted.

Officers explained that the proposed content of the document, including updates to reflect changes in recent years with reference to Sussex Local Nature Partnership, Wilder Horsham, and Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Site level guidance would set out a general expectation that planning proposals consider what contribution they can make to green infrastructure provision.

11 **PROPOSED CONSERVATION AREA; PARK TERRACE GARDENS, HORSHAM**

Horsham District Council are looking to designate a new conservation area in Horsham known as Park Terrace Gardens Conservation Area. The area is considered to have special architectural or historic interest reflecting the particularly intact Victorian era heritage from this area of Horsham town. The development of the Conservation has taken into account the feedback from consultation in Autumn 2022, concerns raised included location of boundaries,

expectations of property owners and additional costs placed upon residents in a conservation area. A meeting was held in 2023 for those who responded and additional discussions were held regarding Park Street.

Following this public consultation, it is proposed the conservation area boundary has been amended to exclude part of Park Street. The next steps in agreeing the boundary by Cabinet and Council were discussed.

12 **LEVELLING UP AND REGENERATION BILL; CONSULTATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN MAKING REFORMS**

A presentation to Members was provided on the content of the ongoing government consultation regarding plan making reforms.

These changes are currently anticipated to be enacted prior to 7th of November 2023. The new plan making regime would begin in August in 2024. The deadline for submitting old style Local Plans would be June 2025, and the latest implementation of old-style Local Plans being 31st of December 2026.

Whilst it is considered that many of the proposed changes will assist, the lack of detail on some aspects has made it difficult to provide detailed or effective commentary.

13 **HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

The Local Development Scheme is a legal requirement. Following delays to the production of the Local Plan, HDC is updating its LDS. The proposed timetable was set out to PDAG members, and outlined the next steps for consideration and agreement by Cabinet.

14 **FORWARD PLAN EXTRACT FOR THE PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO**

The Forward Plan extract was noted.

The meeting closed at 7.06 pm having commenced at 5.30 pm

CHAIRMAN