

Minutes of a meeting of the Crowborough Neighbourhood Plan **Commercial Group** held in the
Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough on Wednesday 3rd June 2015 at 7.30pm

Present:

Michael Cooke
 Peter Ellefsen
 Craig Murrell
 Alan Penney
 Greg Rose
 Charles Tankard
 Chantal Wilson
 Tony Fullwood – Planning Consultant
 Caroline Miles – Crowborough Town Council

Apologies:

David Larkin
 Chris Lawson
 Matthew Street

Topics and Decisions	Action
<p>1. Apologies for Absence</p> <p>As recorded above.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.</p>	
<p>3. Matters Arising</p> <p>There were no matters arising from the minutes except those already included as agenda items.</p>	
<p>4. Matters from Members of the Public</p> <p>There were no members of the public present.</p>	
<p>5. Report from the Steering Group Meeting – Wednesday 13th May 2015</p> <p>Mike Cooke had given a report to the Steering Group on the achievements of the Commercial Group. The Steering Group had agreed to invite the chairman of the Town Council’s Planning and Development Committee to the next meeting. Some elements of data gathering are behind schedule and this will delay the sharing of information.</p> <p>A stall has been booked at the Crowborough Summer Fair 11th July; it is hoped that this will attract interest in the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	
<p>6. Update on Mapping and Storing Information on Cloud</p> <p>Training on the use of the mapping software will take place on the 29th June in the Town Hall.</p> <p>Cloud file is now up and running. Working parties will be able to see their own group reports on cloud, but will not be able to access reports from other groups.</p> <p>Jo Stonebrook has uploaded her report onto the Cloud File.</p>	<p>Mike Cooke to attend training course.</p> <p>Mike Cooke to upload his reports.</p>

<p>7. Car Park Numbers, Restraints and Future.</p> <p>The Chairman distributed two reports for discussion. The report on the Bexhill to Hastings Link Road traffic predictions and data from The Pelham Car Park Survey 2013. Members discussed the definition of public and private car parks within the town. Whilst the car parks at Morrisons and Lidl are private car parks the Waitrose car park has a Wealden car parking order on it and is therefore deemed public.</p> <p>It was agreed that adequate car parking is essential to the vibrancy of the town and that an increase in car parking provision would provide flexibility for the future. The housing needs survey is still outstanding and therefore any report submitted on car parking should be subject to the housing needs survey and housing growth. Tony Fullwood advised that The Pelham Car Park Survey is a robust document and can be used as supporting evidence. The group made the point that this should exclude the data on the Mead House car park.</p> <p>The Chamber of Commerce has stated that they would want an increase in parking at the railway station.</p> <p>Wealden District Council has 73 car parking spaces at Jarvis Brook with the railway station having 127. It was noted that both car parks are 100% full in addition to rail users parking in areas around the station. Tony Fullwood advised that the group would need to examine the options for increasing the size of car parking spaces at the railway station and produce supporting evidence. The group discussed how the evidence could be obtained.</p>	<p>The group will carry out a survey on rail users and station car parking and will provide a report for the next meeting.</p>
<p>8. Changing Nature of the High Street – A Brief Report by Chris Lawson</p> <p>It was agreed to invite Chris Lawson to the next meeting and for his report to form a basis for discussion.</p>	<p>Mike Cooke to invite Chris Lawson to the next Commercial Group meeting</p>
<p>9. Analysis of Industrial Units and Future Recommendations</p> <p>The group discussed the evidence that shows a need for growth in the town's convenience needs and whether future planning policies should reflect the need for edge of town expansion or town centre expansion. It was agreed that the road structure at Jarvis Brook is not conducive to the further expansion of industrial units and that areas on the A26 would be more appropriate.</p> <p>It was agreed that existing B1 groups of units should be protected; small scale units may be suitable for infill housing on brownfield sites.</p> <p>Tony Fullwood advised the importance of producing evidence to support increased demand for units and the criteria for choosing a site. Chris Lawson has professional data which could be uploaded onto Cloud.</p>	<p>Chris Lawson to be asked to share data on Cloud with the group.</p>
<p>10. Other Traffic Growth View Reports on Future Business Provision</p> <p>The East Sussex Transport Study has shown a 19% increase in car usage in Crowborough and Tony Fullwood advised that this should be used as evidence when reporting on future traffic growth.</p>	
<p>11. Chamber of Commerce view of Future Business Provision</p> <p>It was reported that the Chamber of Commerce supports the proposed business use at Pine Grove and any increase in parking provision at the station. There is concern that business opportunities may be lost due to restrictions associated with the Ashdown Forest.</p>	

<p>12. Base Map Plotting of Classes Information for Town Centre, It was agreed that a base map would provide a basis for discussion at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Mike Cooke to assimilate information and produce a base map at the next meeting.</p>
<p>13. Recommendations for Future Work of the Commercial WP Group from Tony Fullwood. The importance of tourism to the area was discussed, including the promotion of links with Conan Doyle, and the need for hotel provision. It may be appropriate for Windlesham Manor to be registered as an asset of community value.</p>	<p>Greg Rose to review requirements for registering assets of community value</p>
<p>14. Any Other Business. There was no further business raised for discussion.</p>	
<p>15. Date of next meeting A provisional date of 29th July was booked subject to the attendance of Chris Lawson.</p>	<p>Mike Cooke to contact Chris Lawson.</p>