

**MINUTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP HELD ON 6th MAY 2014 IN
THE TOWN HALL AT 6PM.**

Present: Nigel Cheetham (Chairman), Robert Savage (H & T Chairman), Cllr Bert Jackson (Community Chair), Irene Hawkins (EE&T Chair), David Hudson, Cllr Derek Lawson MBE, Cllr G Whiting, Cllr Mrs P Whiting, Jon Sidey and Sandra Mitcham (Town Clerk).

1. **APOLOGIES** were received from Philip Toogood, Cllr Mrs A Sauntson, Barry Prigmore and Lisa Caven- Quantrell.

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 18th March 2014.** These were approved and duly signed by the Chairman following 2 amendments.

Matters Arising.

The progress with planters was discussed. Tourism had organised four planters were to be attached to the fences in the High Street. Nigel Cheetham had researched with his contact at Olney how they managed their hanging baskets etc. They had business sponsorship and employed staff to water the plants. Jon Sidey pointed out that there were areas that need tidying up such as weeds in gutters to improve the appearance of Higham. Cllr Lawson agreed to look into what was happening in the offending areas.

Irene Hawkins advised that the Tourist Information Point at the Library was progressing, A display stand had been ordered.

Bob Savage had not heard anything from Sarah Barnwell about his drawings. She was to be invited to a future meeting.

3. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN.

3.1 *PM Report and Discussion* .

Copies of the PM report had been circulated.

James had produced a draft copy of a consultation leaflet. He had also produced more detailed policies, so these could be placed on the website. However, there had been much correspondence over recent days which threw into doubt the housing figures that were being used for Higham Ferrers. In addition comments had been received from ENC on the draft policy areas and the needs of Higham Ferrers in terms of housing mix. In addition a Design Workshop was being held on 19th May to improve policies on design.

It was agreed that the consultation should be delayed whilst some clarity was obtained on the housing numbers and the comments made by ENC were considered. It would also provide an opportunity for the feedback from the design workshop to be incorporated. The intention was that this would not be delayed by no more than 1 month. **Action: Sandra Mitcham and James Wilson.**

A meeting had also been held during the month with the Duchy of Lancaster.

Mention was made of a possible 'self-build' legislation going through parliament. Other countries tended to not use volume builders but have more self-build properties.

It was noted there was to be a mobile classroom at the Henry Chichele School from September with hopefully an extension for September 2015.

If anyone had any comments on the draft consultation documents could they forward to the Town Clerk. **Action:SG**

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday 10th June 2014 12.30pm in the Town Hall **Action: SG**

Chairman

Date: