

Staplehurst Parish Council - Report

Committee, Group or Sub Group

## **Rural Settlement Group**

Meeting Date & Venue

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

Report Author

**John Kelly**

Report

### **1. Introductions**

The Group welcomed David Staunton Lambert to the meeting.

Attendees – Joan Buller (JB), Simon Green (SG), John Kelly(JK), Paul Kelly (PK), Colin Love (CL), Robin Oakley (RO), David Staunton Lambert (DSL), John Perry (JP)

2. **Apologies** – Margaret Arger, Steve Lenham, Robin Kenworthy,

### **3. Membership of Group**

John Kelly informed that the group that membership may change following the Council meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> May. All volunteers were welcome, particularly from residents, albeit if the group became larger then we would have to meet elsewhere.

### **4. Core Strategy Update and Public Consultation**

JK informed the Group that the draft Core Strategy was due to go before MBC Cabinet on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Once approved, it would go out for public consultation (towards end of June) for a period of six weeks.

The Group expressed concern as to whether there would be sufficient time for meaningful public consultation. Much would depend on the release date of the document.

The Group would endeavour to complete a poster, website and media marketing exercise throughout the community to highlight the Core Strategy to individuals, so they could respond.

JK had been in communication with Flo Churchill, MBC who is with the draft Development Contributions Document. Flo Churchill offered to attend Staplehurst and brief the Group/Council on the current position.

**Action** – JK to invite Flo Churchill to RSG meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

### **5. Tunbridge Wells Core Strategy – Review**

The Group had been aware of the Tunbridge Wells Core Strategy being one year down the line. A series of consultation events were being held across communities with a view to review. The Group agreed it would be a useful 'learning exercise' for members to attend if possible.

JP – Cranbrook (18.05.11) SG SG - Hawkhurst (19.05.11) CL – Tunbridge Wells ( 21.05.11)  
JK – Paddock Wood (25.05.11)

## **6. Neighbourhood Rejuvenation – Planning - Training**

MBC had offered 'training' on various aspects of planning for neighbourhood rejuvenation. The Group fully considered the documentation and learning outcomes for each session, concluding it was not appropriate for anyone from this Group to attend.

The Group acknowledged MBC's efforts in providing free training to interested parties.

## **7. Local Climate Change and Big Society Workshop**

JP and Peter Spearink had attended this meeting at Bearsted on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2011. JP had made a report. See report

It was highlighted that the Environment would have to be considered within the Staplehurst Plan.

Despite cynicism displayed at the workshop regarding S.106 payments, the Group agreed it was imperative that Staplehurst had a Development Contributions Document.

## **8. Staplehurst Plan**

SG thanked those who had contributed to the document to date. Discussion took place as to the format and content. The Group agreed there needed to be consistency across the reporting.

Agreed that each theme would contain the following headings:-

- The Current Situation
- The Future
- Policy

CL volunteered to take on Cars and Trucks. DSL volunteered to take on Sports and Recreation. Allotments would go to the Allotments Group for consideration.

The Group recognised that Brian Waterman may wish to submit on Walking and Cycling.

Action – JK to contact Brian in due course.

The Group recognised that Glen may wish to become part of the RSG and submit on Retail.

## **9. Any other business**

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9.50 pm.

Date & Venue of next meeting	
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Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2011
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