

Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting

Held on Monday 10th November 2014 at
Boxgrove Village Hall

Present: Mike Tristram (MT), William Woolmer (Wwo), David Taylor (DT), Stan Abbott (SA), James Cooper (JC), Megan Cameron (MC), Chris Passmore (CP), William White (WWh), Alison Tingley (ATi), Carol Brown (CB)

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Robin Edwards, Nigel Clutton, Sabrina Harcourt-Smith, David Ashcroft and Simon Ward
2. **Minutes – item 4i)** Local Plan: JC had meet with Tim Slaney from SDNPA who had advised that the NP Local Plan is likely to be less constraining and that the whole process would be simpler when there is a single plan for the whole Park. The NPA are keen to ensure appropriate development in villages takes place. Policies are likely to support infill and small scale development on the edge of villages. At the last liaison meeting there had been a presentation on Community Land Trusts which the C2C LEP and SDNPA are supporting. The date for the next liaison meeting will take place to coincide with the preferred options stage. WW reported that this is likely to be delayed until April.

item 5 Membership. ATi reported that we still had 246. There had been a couple of new members and a couple of inquiries. CLA had offered to do an article in their monthly magazine. **MC to ask Isobel to contact Alison.**

item 6 Communications: ATi reported that the Autumn Newsletter had been sent out last week. The next newsletter would be in the spring. **SA offered an article on Chalara, ATi to get an update on broadband from Angie Blowman.** The new leaflets had been distributed to Winchester SCATS, Exec members were asked to take leaflets to distribute in their areas. **ATi to ensure that the SDNPA Area Teams have a supply of leaflets.**

Item 11 AOB item 9 b) ATi to see if ATh has approached Isobel Swift to see if she might be prepared to join the EC as lead on funding schemes.

3. **Idox - Carol Brown SDNPA** Idox is the planning recording system used by the SDNPA. Requests have been made to the NPA to enable monitoring of agricultural planning applications. CB explained that around 50% of planning applications received by the NPA do so via the government Planning Portal. NPA need to find a way of establishing which applications are agricultural developments and what types of agricultural development are required to be monitored. WW & MC identified a list of types of development that they would be interested in: (added to by ATi)

Full applications and Prior notification – s6 PD rights

New buildings/ infrastructure

- Agricultural sheds eg grainstores, fertilizer stores, general barns, packhouses, wineries, coldstores, feedstores, livestock sheds whether they be poultry through to beef shed, machinery stores, dairy buildings including parlour etc.

- Agricultural dwellings: farm worker housing/
- Silage clamps/ slurry lagoons
- Reservoirs/ water storage facilities
- Forestry sawmills, biofuel stores
- Horticulture – includes glasshouses and polytunnels
- Viticulture
- General housing on farm – the latter could be greenfield land lost to housing development

Change of use – buildings

- Farm diversification – not just barn conversions to office/light industrial, storage, commercial use, retail, processing Very wide category could include some changes of use if carried out for more than 28 days pa.
- Barn conversions
- Residential,
- Tourist accommodation: self catering, B&B, holiday lets
- Farm shops/ tea rooms
- Educational facilities/ interpretation centres

Change of use - land

- Equestrian
- Green waste/ composting
- Burial sites
- Tourism – camping facilities,
- Car parks
- Access roads
- Recreation: fishing lakes, sports grounds, golf courses, driving ranges
- Renewable energy: solar farms, AD, wind turbines, biofuel

ATi to forward list to CB

Discussions centred on how full agricultural applications could be identified (as opposed to prior notification): **CB to see if planning portal application form can be amended to include holding number.** SA raised issue that forestry holdings may not be covered by this. All farm businesses would have an SBI (Single Business Identifier) number. Landowners would have to be able to provide evidence in some way and SDNPA would need to be able to verify possibly via RPA. **CB to see how reporting in other NPs is carried out.**

Further discussions took place on what reports were required. CB demonstrated the IDOX system and reporting mechanism Enterprise that will come on stream in Jan for testing and be fully operational by April. Reports can be generated at NP, District or even case officer level **CB to have a think about what should be included and pass to ATi for circulation and feedback.**

- 4. South Downs Grazing Project** - As Sue Simpson had been unable to attend the meeting ATi and MT outlined the project, to set up a website to act as a ‘dating agency’ between graziers and those with land that needs grazing and provide a one-stop-shop for advice and information. JC suggested that there may be some merit if it were set up in such a way to act as a mechanism for recruiting new members.

However, members of the EC generally felt that this was not core to the purposes of the SDLM and that it would sit better with the SDNPA. Concerns were raised at the amount of time it would take up in administration which would have to be funded by the SDLM. ATi indicated that she did not have spare capacity within the current contract arrangements to take on additional work. NE had indicated that whilst funding to set up the website would be available, ongoing funding for administration would not. **Action ATi to reply to Sue Simpson to suggest alternatives partners for this project, such as Plantlife, Murray Downland Trust, or South Downs Society.**

5. SDNPA emerging Food & Drink Policy document. A paper was circulated prior to the meeting that sets out the SDNPA draft policy statement relating to food and drink and the interventions available to the SDNPA to increase the market share for sustainable food and drink production in the National Park. The following comments are to be fed back to the SDNPA.

- The paper does not define what is meant by ‘local’.
- Remove things that should be in an environmental policy for example “Working with the Environment Agency, other regulators, farmers and landowners we will seek to reduce the damage caused to the National Park by unsustainable land management practices caused by specific types of production in particular locations. An example is the diffuse pollution and siltation of rivers such as the Rother.”
- Makes the assumption that local food is more sustainable
- Under 3.1 not clear exactly how encouraging local food and drink will help deliver purpose 2 or the duty or how that will be of benefit to the SDNP
- The SDNPA needs to recognise the overriding requirement for food and drink producers to satisfy their markets and that their policies need to be effective within this market framework.
- Needs to identify positive interventions – e.g. promoting local food more proactively
- Need to ensure that Planning development management function is supporting production and retail of local products and that unreasonable conditions are not attached to planning approval i.e. proportion of produce on sale at farm shops produce on the farm.
- Question the level of influence that SDNPA have over investments and incentives that are not directly managed by them.
- There are places where the paper does not make grammatical sense.
- Appear to be no clear conclusions leading to positive action, in particular wording of 4.1 and 5.1 seem to indicate that this is merely a box ticking exercise as it will not be actively promoted nor will the SDNPA commit further resources to support it.
- 10.1.1 not clear how the proposed policy will reduce negative impacts of some food production
- 10.1.2 very unlikely that policy will result in increase the availability of local sustainable products to low income families

6. Membership See 2 item 5 above

7. Communications see 2 item 6 above

- Feedback on Newsletters
- Frequency of communications

8. **Updates by Lead** (please brief another EC member if you will not be able to attend), including:
- **Agriculture and Environment: NIA** (WW) Work has focussed on 2 areas 1 around Winchester the other around Chanctonbury. In year two 50% of the funding had gone to farmers/landowners rather than contractors. Funding comes to an end at the end of March 2015. There is no indication yet as to whether or not NE will continue with funding for landscape focus generally and South Downs in particular.
 - A group of farmers are meeting on Friday with the view to setting up a cluster in the Selborne area, similar to that set up by Peter Thompson, around the Norfolk Estate. Nick Heasman, from SDNP (Hampshire area), is providing facilitation support but this initiative is intended to be a bottom-up, farmer-driven process. The group will look to establish a baseline and decide what they want to do on a landscape scale. Such clusters may be useful in future NELMS applications. This may be a good model for the SDLM to lobby for in any future NIA project.
 - **Land Agents** (JC) The land agents panel is looking into defining what constitutes a farm workers dwelling in relation to CIL charges
 - **Planning** See 2 item 4i) above
 - **Access** (DT) Last LAF meeting spent a lot of time discussing canoe access to the Rother and footpath near Bishop's Waltham.
 - **Forestry** (SA) Nothing new to report.
 - **Cultural Heritage:** (JC) In the High Woods LiDAR has identified a number of new archaeological features on the Stansted Estate. (SW) The Buildings at Risk survey has particularly gone quiet and the two officers involved, David Boyson and Mike Scammell, say they are being pulled away from developing this due to greater calls on their time dealing with planning applications
9. **Partner (NFU/CLA) / Other Organizations. (MC)** CLA Recently held a joint meeting with the Chief Constables who provided an update on rural crime.
- An update on CAP is available on the Defra website
- NFU (WW) A number of CAP autumn tour dates are coming up
- Likely to be a toughening of green belt planning law especially within NPs
10. **Autumn Meeting – Thursday 27th November The White Horse, Ditchling –** ATi to talk to Isobel Shayle CLA and Ditchling PC about publicising the talk.
11. **Any other business**
- i) **2015 meeting dates** to be held in spring, summer and autumn dates to be circulated.
 - ii) **Partnership representation:** George Atkinson has agreed to go along to the next meeting before deciding whether or not he was prepared to sit on the Partnership.
 - iii) **A27** 3 areas which would potentially impact on Members: Arundel, Worthing and Lewes-Polegate. Upgrade of the route aimed to make it a strategic long distance route, potentially severely compromising local accessibility and connectivity. The SDNPA have refined their position statement as to how they would deal with a major application but will not comment on routes or options until an application is received. Concern was raised that there was no process for local knowledge or evidence to inform the process.