

# SOUTHBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

Tel: (01892) 529176



Southborough Civic Centre  
Council Offices  
137 London Road  
Southborough  
KENT TN4 0NA

## **SOUTHBOROUGH AND HIGH BROOMS** **NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN WORKING** **GROUP**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN WORKING GROUP** Held at 7pm on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at the Civic Centre, 137 London Road, Southborough, TN4 0NA

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillors Alain Lewis (Chairman), David Elliott, Jackie Prance, Dariel Francis, Trevor Polie, Nicholas Blackwell and Graham Munn. Nick Woollett (Deputy Chairman), Angela Woollett, Margaret Borland, Elspeth Penny and Michael Dunne

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Edmund Thorley (Office Administrator)

- 1. INTRODUCTIONS** – The working group meetings introduced themselves and apologies were noted.
- 2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR** -The members elected Councillor Alain Lewis as Chair and Nick Woollett as Deputy Chair.
- 3. WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE-** The members **NOTED** the working group terms of reference. Councillor Dariel Francis was duly elected as the Finance Officer for the Working Group. Councillor Alain Lewis was elected as the Town Council Liaison Officer. Edmund Thorley would be the Working Groups Administrative Officer.

**4. SCOPE FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN** - Members discussed potential financial support for the Neighbourhood Plan and agreed to explore further options.

Members **AGREED** Councillor Lewis would contact Stephen Baughen at the Tunbridge Wells Planning Department to discuss attending future meetings.

Members discussed the need to liaise with other similar Town Councils who have already implemented a Neighbourhood Plan and asked the Working Groups Administrative Officer to contact Lamberhurst Parish Council and ask if they would be willing to share their experience.

Members **NOTED** that the Neighbourhood Plan could be a 4–5-year undertaking with a further a referendum at the end. Members **NOTED** that there is a shorter 2-year process which can be completed in stages.

Members discussed local areas that require protection and **AGREED** to define the areas to protect at the next Neighbourhood Plan meeting.

Members discussed the need for a vision of what Southborough and High Broom are and the importance of maintaining their identity as a separate area from Tunbridge Wells.

**5. DERELICT, UNDER-DEVELOPED AND DELAPIDATED SITES IN SOUGHBOROUGH AND HIGH BROOMS** - Members **NOTED** that this is an ongoing issue for Southborough Town Council and is due to be discussed at the upcoming Extraordinary Full Council meeting on 10th March 2022. It was further **NOTED** this has also been discussed at previous Planning and Transportation Committee meetings.

**a) Temporary Use of Derelict Sites** -Members **NOTED** future derelict sites may be used for temporary purposes while they remain derelict and that future developers should be encouraged to consider alternative uses for sites they own.

**b) Joint Ventures in Property (JVIP)**-Members discussed local 'grot spots'/ untidy sites. It was noted many of which are owned by JVIP, who have since gone into administration. Members asked the Working Groups Administrative Officer to find a list of all sites in Southborough and High Brooms owned by JVIP.

**c) Farm Buildings**-Members discussed the regeneration of Farm Buildings locally.

**d) Prospect Road**-Members discussed the small area of land on Prospect Road which has been put up for sale for £25,000. Members **NOTED** their concern about the intentions of prospective purchasers. Members asked the Working Groups Administrative Officer to find out if the trees on the site have preservation orders.

**e) Southborough Library**- Members **NOTED** this matter would be discussed at the upcoming Extraordinary Full Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Members further **NOTED** the property is for sale and that Southborough Town Council may attempt to purchase the site. Members discussed potential uses for the site.

**6. ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING POINTS** - Members discussed the provision of electric vehicle charging points in Southborough and High Brooms. Members noted there is a lack of charging points in the area and asked the Working group Administrator to find out how many public charging points there are in Southborough and High Brooms. It was noted most new housing will have charging points. Members **AGREED** to put pressure on Kent County Council to improve the availability of charging points in Southborough and High Brooms, with a focus on Pennington Park and High Brooms Station.

Members **AGREED** that safe pavement parking is an important consideration and discussed the use of white lines as a safety measure. Members asked the Working Groups Administrative Officer to contact High Weald and Town and Country Housing Associations to ascertain their plans for EV charging points in Southborough and High Brooms. Members asked that the security of EV charging sites be included in any future discussion. The Working Groups Administrative Officer has been asked to research how similar areas have approached EV charging, with a focus on Brighton and East London Boroughs.

**7. PUBLIC TOILETS-** Members discussed the provision of public toilets in Southborough and High Brooms. Members **NOTED** the lack of public toilets and the limited access the public have to the Civic Centre toilets, it was also **NOTED** that there are no public toilets available at night. Members asked the Working Groups Administrative Officer to contact Kent County Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to request improved signage on the road for the Civic Centre which will improve awareness of the public toilet's availability. Members asked the Working Groups Administrative Officer to contact Southborough GP Surgery with a view to improving awareness of the Civic Centre's toilets for their patients.

**8. SOUTHBOROUGH AND HIGH BROOMS TRANSPORT LINKS** -Members discussed public transport links between Southborough and High Brooms. Members **NOTED** this had been discussed at the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and that Go Coach and Arriva will be invited to attend the next meeting of the Planning and Transportation meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Councillor Bullion is speaking with Arriva regarding bus routes. Members asked the Working group Administrator to research minibus services in Sevenoaks.

**10. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING-** Members decided to wait for confirmation from Stephen Baughen before setting a date for the next Neighbourhood Development Plan meeting.

There being no further business the Chair thanked Working group Members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8:30pm.

**CHAIR**