

## **Minutes of the Faversham Creek Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting: Thursday, 11 October 2012**

### Present

Nigel Kay, Faversham Town Councillor (FTC) – Chairman  
Mike Cosgrove, Swale Borough Councillor (SBC) – Vice Chairman  
Trevor Payne, Faversham Town Councillor  
Anne Salmon, Faversham Creek Consortium Management Group member  
Andrew Osborne, Faversham Creek Consortium Management Group member  
Tony Fullwood, Independent Planning Consultant

### In attendance

David Simmons, Mayor, Faversham Town Council  
Natalie Earl, Senior Planner, Swale Borough Council  
Pete Raine, Director of Regeneration, Swale Borough Council  
James Freeman, Head of Development Services, Swale Borough Council  
Jackie Westlake, Faversham Town Council Clerk – Secretary

### **1. Apologies for absence**

1.1 John Sell, Cllr Culham and Cllr Henderson gave their apologies for absence

### **2. Minutes of the meeting of 13 September and matters arising**

2.1 Two amendments were made:

Paragraph 2.2 (b) line 6 "...the Neighbourhood Plan would extend to **2031**"  
Paragraph 3.2 line 2"...formally endorsed by FTC and SBC/**KCC** Joint Transportation Board".

2.2 The minutes were then approved.

2.3 Under matters arising, the following issue was discussed in detail:

- a) Legal opinion update. Cllr Cosgrove (MC) updated the Group. He was grateful to Andrew Osborne (AO) for his work on the Medway Ports Reorganization Scheme 1969 and the Medway Ports Act 1973.

### **ACTION**

- MC to forward a formal note on the legal opinion to the Group, via the Secretary, in the week beginning **15 October**

2.4 The Group agreed it was unlikely that key stakeholders would reach final agreement on responsibility for the bridge in time for the workshop. However, the workshop should go ahead on the date fixed. The Group considered that the issues of the bridge and gates were key but might have to be dealt with on a different timescale to enable agreement to be reached.

2.5 The Group agreed the outstanding matters arising should be carried over to the next meeting. These were:

### **ACTIONS**

- Jackie Westlake (JW) to organise a meeting with SBC policy planners and the Steering Group following the workshop
- JW/TF to scope brief for the meeting
- JW to prepare responses on the individual representations
- JW to update the current project plan and communications strategy following the workshop. All Steering Group members to forward their detailed comments on the Communications and Engagement Strategy to JW (preferably through track changes) for incorporation

### **3. Budget update**

3.1 James Freeman (JF) gave a brief summary of the Neighbourhood Plan budget, including expenditure to date and spend forecast. He agreed it would have been helpful if Faversham Town Council (FTC) had had the information earlier for planning purposes, but hoped that the Council would find the figures useful for budget-setting purposes.

3.2 The Group acknowledged that, when Swale Borough Council started the process to produce a Development Plan Document (DPD) for the Creek which subsequently became the basis for the Neighbourhood Plan, it was envisaged the overall cost would be approximately £50k. The Neighbourhood Plan approach had brought additional work, not least the need for additional stakeholder engagement and the referendum, which had added significantly to the costs and required further support from Swale. The recently-announced additional funding from DCLG would only be available to those Neighbourhood Plans that had completed their independent examination by 31 March 2013.

3.3 It was noted that FTC had provided some finance for the Faversham Creek Streetscape Strategy, which formed part of the evidence base for the Plan. FTC had not allocated further funding for the Neighbourhood Plan in 2012/13, as it had not been made aware that any further funding would be required. FTC had had substantial unbudgeted expenditure that meant that it had already had to draw from reserves, and no additional funds would be available in 2012/2013. It was also noted that FTC was a third tier Council with limited ability to raise funds from the precept.

3.4 The Group agreed it was important for all to understand that, if the Neighbourhood Plan was not adopted, Faversham Creek development proposals would be considered under the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework. All efforts should be made to take the Plan forward to a successful conclusion.

## **ACTION**

- Cllr Kay to present to Faversham Town Council's (FTC) forthcoming budget meeting for consideration as part of the discussion on potential Town Council expenditure in 2013/14

## **4. Proposed workshop**

4.1 The Group discussed the workshop in detail. The following points were noted:

- There were a number of primary and secondary objectives for the workshop, not all of which might be resolved on the day. Another workshop might be required to cover all the issues
- The presentations at the start were key to setting the scene for the day and the eventual outcome of the workshop. The statutory organisations had agreed to present on issues such as flooding, the structure of the bridge and costings (KCC or their consultants Jacobs), dredging and contamination (EA) highways, and the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan. The facilitator might also wish to give landowners a timed slot to explain their current ideas.
- Some issues were likely to be supported by all sides of the debate, particularly those relating to the public realm, and they could be agreed as common ground near the start of the session
- It was important to have as much time as possible on the day, so the timetable might need to be revised with a target of a 4pm finish
- Some other organisations should be invited including resident association representatives and Medway Ports
- The initial questionnaire prepared by CPRE/NALC/facilitator would need revision to reflect the importance of the landowners' role
- Each site's proposals should feature at the workshop and suggestions were made as to the key issues for each area, to be taken forward by the facilitator
- Early contact and detailed discussion should be had with the facilitator
- SBC would support the day by providing equipment, maps of the site, etc

## **ACTIONS**

- MC to liaise with Medway Ports re: representation at the workshop
- JW to liaise with the facilitator, including revising the outline of the day
- JW to invited residents' associations to attend the workshop
- JW to begin to chase responses week commencing **15 October**
- NK to speak to the Creek Trust's Chair if necessary
- Steering Group members to provide drafting comments to JW on the questionnaire by **18 October**

## **5. Any Other Business**

5.1 AO presented his paper on uses of the Creek since the 1940s. There was a general discussion about what constituted marine-related industry.

The Group thanked AO for his work and agreed that the meaning of 'marine-related industry' should be part of the discussion at the workshop, and the paper should form part of the evidence base for the workshop.

5.2 NK notified the Group of the launch of the Medway Swale Catchment Improvement Group on **Thursday, 8 November**. They would be focusing on the delivery of the EU's Water Framework Directive, which had key objectives around sustainable use of water, water and groundwater pollution, and aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands. Natalie Earl advised that a member of her team would be attending the launch and she would update the Group at the next meeting.

#### **ACTION**

- JW to liaise with the facilitator re: AO's paper

#### **6. Date of the next meeting**

6.1 The dates of the next meeting were agreed:

- 22 November 2012
- 13 December 2012