

# Faversham Creek Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting Minutes

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012

7 - 9pm

The Guildhall, Faversham

## 1/ Apologies and agreement of May Minutes

### Those Present:

Nigel Kay, Faversham Town Councillor (FTC) – Chairman  
Anne Salmon, Faversham Creek Consortium Management Group Member  
Trevor Payne, Faversham Town Councillor  
Andrew Osborne, Faversham Creek Consortium Management Group Member  
John Sell, Faversham Town Council Planning Agent  
Tony Fullwood, Independent Planning Consultant  
Natalie Earl, Swale Borough Council Senior Planner  
Mike Cosgrove, Swale Borough Councillor (SBC) – Vice Chairman  
James Freeman – Head of Development Services Swale Borough Council

### Apologies:

Mike Henderson, Swale Borough Councillor

The minutes of the May meeting were agreed.

## 2/ Budget and Timetable – James Freeman, SBC Head of Development Services

James Freeman said that the key messages from Swale are:

- That Officers and Councillors now understand that there is much more to the Neighbourhood Plan processes than what was originally envisaged, both in terms of financial and human resource implications – particularly from the Town Council and the community's perspective
- That there is a need for Swale Council to monitor and control resources and programming.
  - From SBC's angle – the Local Development Framework Core Strategy (Local Plan) will take priority in available resources.
  - There is currently insufficient resources to progress the Neighbourhood Plan to adoption, including the cost of referendum following the Government's referendum regulations being published.

- A bid is currently being made to provide additional funds to be able to complete the programme as SBC are committed to supporting this project.
- There could be issues with the current Neighbourhood Plan programme as:
  - The Neighbourhood Plan programme will need to fit around the LDF Core Strategy programme.
  - We are not clear what the LDF Core Strategy programme is likely to be given that the Council may need to consider a further stage of consultation – this should be clearer from early September onwards.
- The Steering group and FTC need to be fully aware of available resources and be clear on what it needs to do:
  - There is a need for a clear programme leading to adoption
  - I suggest a workshop session – probably around mid October – between SBC officers, the steering group and other leading FTC members to:
    - Fully programme the Neighbourhood Plan with lead in times etc and ensure resources are in place
    - Clarify what input is required from the steering group and FTC

Mike Cosgrove said that he had written to Bob Neil MP to explain the extensive costs of a Neighbourhood Plan, especially the referendum which looks likely to be run as a local election would be. He said that taking it forward as a Neighbourhood Plan had added significant costs over and above what a Development Plan Document would have cost.

It was suggested that the Town Council should set money aside for additional work such as the communications strategy, consultation events.

The Chairman thanked James Freeman for attending.

### 3/ Responses to the 5<sup>th</sup> May Exhibition – Natalie Earl

Natalie informed the group that around 150 responses had been received.

In response to - Is this vision still appropriate for the Neighbourhood Plan?

**Yes:** 132 respondents      **No:** 16 respondents

When choosing a preferred option:

**Option 1** (Employment Only): 35 respondents

**Option 2** (Housing Only): 0 respondents

### **Option 3 (Mixed Use): 117 respondents**

Natalie then updated the group on some of the comments received:

- Desire for a working bridge and sluice gates
- Need for traditional employment
- No new houses; anywhere or just in the basin
- Enhance the natural environment
- Parking and traffic issues; especially along Abbey Street and around Standard Quay
- Employment needed for young people
- Sustainable development is a must
- The maritime heritage needs to be an integral part of the plan
- Whatever happens needs to be viable and deliverable
- Heritage must be conserved
- Like the overall mixed use approach, but not mixed use of every site.

It was agreed that at the next meeting the group would look at what they have so far recommended for each site against what the public said on their response forms.

**ACTION:** Natalie to send the table of comments to the Steering Group and place them on the Neighbourhood Plan website. Once they are on the website a press release will be done to let the public know. A poster will be placed on the two town notice boards and on the website thanking people for their comments and informing them that the results are on the websites.

#### 4/ Update on the Streetscape Strategy – Tony Fullwood

The Strategy is going to the Town Council in July and is going to the Joint Transport Board (JTB) on 10<sup>th</sup> September. It is being taken to the Town Council and JTB as a piece of evidence base that will form part of the Neighbourhood Plan. The community will set the priorities for implementation through the Neighbourhood Plan.

Once it is agreed by the Town Council and the JTB a press release will be needed and the document will need to be placed on the website.

**ACTION:** Natalie to do a report for the JTB.

#### 5/ Update on the bridge

Swale Borough Council are getting a legal opinion on who is responsible for the bridge, the sluices, maintenance and dredging.

KCC have now put it into their maintenance budget but this group need to continue to push for maintenance on it now.

Medway Ports and KCC have now met to discuss issues.

Andrew Liggett from Medway Ports is meeting Mike Cosgrove soon to discuss progress.

Mike Mead, Medway Ports superintendent, is due to test the lifting mechanism, and then costings can be sought.

However, the abutments have moved (especially on the Shepherd Neame side) and that will increase the cost of repairs and/or replacements.

Mike Cosgrove was thanked for all his work on this.

#### 6/ Update from Faversham Creek Consortium – Mike Cosgrove

They are still working up their HLF bid.

Mike Cosgrove has taken the Faversham 2020 consultant Alison Eardley around the creek to show her the key issues.

#### 7/ Draft Neighbourhood Plan Viability Study Brief – Tony Fullwood

This was deferred as the activity at the next meeting of looking at the public consultation responses against the group's early ideas for each site will feed into this.

#### 8/ Communications Strategy

No progress has been made on this item.

Tony Fullwood warned the group that without a planned communications strategy this project could fail.

It was suggested that the Town Council use their new Tourism Officer Alison Eardley and use some of their budget for communications.

Natalie suggested approaching the two secondary schools in Faversham to see if there are any students who would like to take it on as part of their GCSE or A Level media or IT courses.

#### 9/ AOB

Natalie informed the group that Anton Draper from the Department for Communities and Local Government had been in touch and was interested in

meeting some of the group to see how the Neighbourhood Plan was progressing. The group agreed that he could attend a future meeting.

Next Meetings:

25<sup>th</sup> July

22<sup>nd</sup> August

11<sup>th</sup> October would be the workshop on the way forward.