

Minutes of the Faversham Creek Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting: Thursday, 14 March 2013

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

Jackie Westlake, Faversham Town Council Clerk – Secretary

Before the start of the meeting, Nigel Kay (NK) introduced students from the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School: Alex Smith, James Hall, Tilly Tallant and Tallulah Tormey. They had asked to attend the meeting as part of their citizenship studies work as they were all doing a project on Faversham Creek. They explained what their personal interest was in the Creek, which included living in close proximity to it, and sailing.

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 John Coulter, Mike Henderson, John Sell, Natalie Earl and David Simmons gave their apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 13 February and matters arising

2.1 The minutes were approved.

2.2 All matters arising had been dealt with or were on the agenda as substantive items.

3. Feedback from the illustrations workshop

3.1 NK said that this had been a successful meeting, with a significant number of Steering Group members in attendance. The artist, Noel Isherwood (NI), would produce a set of master plan perspectives:

- a view of the Inner Basin from the bridge
- a view of the Creek from Crab Island back to the bridge
- a view from Waterside looking up the Creek (taking in Standard Quay, the oil depot, and former coach depot)

3.2 In addition, NI would produce thumb nail sketches of Standard House, Swan Quay from across the Creek, and the bridge. At least one of the master plans would include a sketch of an open bridge, and, for Ordnance Wharf, there would be four sketches showing different structural designs (two different heights and two different sets of materials). The latter would be used at the exhibition to canvas wider opinion. The drawings would be produced by Friday, 22 March and circulated by the Secretary (JW).

3.3 Members agreed it had been a worthwhile event. The drawings would be the key to the forthcoming exhibition.

3.4 Members considered the date and format of the exhibition. It was agreed it would be sensible to put the date back for a couple of weeks to ensure the project would be a success. Issues such as content, advertising, audio-visual aids, etc, would need to be properly scoped out. There was some discussion as to what the exhibition should contain. Suggestions included the November workshop feedback, the Streetscape Strategy, the heritage assets list, individual sites' sketches, and the overall impression.

3.5 Members noted that the exhibition would probably be the last time for options to be presented to the public for their comments, although the drawings would not define usage but provide an understanding and an overall impression of development on the Creek. The next key step, once the feedback had been analysed, would be the drafting of the Plan.

3.6 Members agreed a separate project plan for the event would be required.

ACTIONS

- **JW to discuss Alexander Centre availability for Saturdays in June**
- **JW to draft an exhibition project plan for circulation**
- **JW to discuss with CPRE their involvement, once DCLG had got back to her re: interim support before the new support consortium came on stream**

4. Feedback from the meeting with the Faversham Creek Trust

4.1 NK said this had been a positive meeting, where there was a clear understanding about the danger to the Creek if a Neighbourhood Plan was not in place. Members agreed the actions, which included a meeting (to be arranged) with the owner of Ordnance Wharf, and a further meeting with the Creek Trust.

ACTION

JW to send the bullet point list of agreed actions and next steps to the Trust

5. Communications and Engagement Report

5.1 Members discussed the content of the report and agreed that, subject to some minor revisions being made, which had been indicated as tracked changes, it could be approved. It would then be published via Faversham.org.

5.2 There was some discussion as to whether the NP webpage could be updated or a new website created. That would require additional resources, particularly if the website was to be interactive (comments would have to be monitored and, where necessary, moderated). Other

websites, including the Creek Trust's, could be used to disseminate information via the comments section, including the timetable and detail of the referendum.

ACTION

JW to make amendments to the report

JW to send round a revised timetable up to the referendum in 2014 for members to agree

JW to send details of the workstream allocations for members to sign up to, for final agreement at the next meeting

6. Budget

6.1 NK expressed his thanks for the contribution to the NP budget by the Mayor, D Simmons and Cllr T Wilcox, who had allocated their SBC Regeneration Fund budget 2012/13 to the Neighbourhood Plan. Members noted that a further £20,000 would be available from DCLG at the time of submission of the Plan, and there was a further £5,000 to come once the Plan had been formally designated.

7. Heritage Assets List

7.1 Anne Salmon (AS) updated the Group on progress. Following the previous meeting's commission, she and John Sell (JS) had made a number of corrections to the draft, which included issues about significance and context. Members agreed to e-mail AS with further comments on the draft. These related to setting the draft in the context of the NPPF, making the link to the conservation area appraisal, and expanding the physical description of the buildings to highlight their character's essence (scale, material, proportions, industrial setting, etc).

7.2 NK thanked AS and JS for their hard work in producing an important document which would form part of the evidence base for the Plan.

ACTION: AS/JS to make further amendments to the paper in the light of further comments by the Steering Group

8. Any Other Business

8.1 The following were raised under AOB:

- Footpath ZF5: NK advised the Group that Faversham Town Council had agreed to write to the Local Government Ombudsman concerning the conduct of the panel hearing and the subsequent response by KCC to the Town Council's complaint. In addition, FTC had agreed to make formal objections to the proposed Orders laid by KCC
- FCC minutes: the actions relating to the bridge's sluice gates and moorings in the Inner Basin were noted. Mike Cosgrove (MC) suggested the boat owners who moored at the Front Brents Jetty and Belvedere Road should be regarded as formal consultees to the NP. There was discussion about the level of fees that could be

set, and it was agreed FTC's fees should be regarded as the marker for the rest of the moorings

ACTION: JW to place on the agenda for the next Front Brents Jetty Committee meeting

- Meeting with Rt Hon Hugh Robertson MP (HR): MC said that HR had agreed to contact MPA/Peel Ports regarding their contribution to the bridge. He was also willing to attend the exhibition (diary commitments permitting) and to help launch the NP draft and consultation period
- Landowners' agents' notes on Swan Quay. It was agreed these would form part of the wider evidence base for the Plan
- Environment and Living Group meeting, 11 April:
ACTION: JW would attend on behalf of the Steering Group

9. Date of next meeting

9.1 After some discussion, it was agreed that the optimum dates for the next three months were:

- Thursday, 4 April 2013
- Wednesday, 1 May 2013
- Thursday, 6 June 2013