

## **Minutes of the Faversham Creek Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting: Thursday, 4 April 2013**

### Present

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

### In attendance

David Simmons, Mayor, Faversham Town Council  
Jackie Westlake, Faversham Town Council Clerk – Secretary

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

1.1 Natalie Earl.

### **2. Minutes of the meeting of 14 March 2013 and matters arising**

2.1 The minutes were agreed for presentation to the Town Council on 8 April. In response to a question by Mike Henderson (MH), Nigel Kay (NK) said the meeting with the Faversham Creek Trust had been very positive, with agreement on the main principles for the Neighbourhood Plan.

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

### **3. Update on the June exhibition planning**

3.1 Jackie Westlake (JW) said the key exhibition spaces in the centre of Faversham were all booked on the proposed dates. During the discussion, Mike Cosgrove (MC) said the key objective for the exhibition was to get as many residents into the exhibition as possible. This would require:

- An area large enough to accommodate the exhibition and expected footfall
- The location to be easily accessible
- The exhibition to set a high standard for the following phases of the Neighbourhood Plan

3.2 A number of options were discussed. It was agreed that the June date was imperative in order to meet the programme. It was agreed that JW would investigate the use of the following options in priority order:

- Suite of rooms in the Alexander Centre, which included the Mayor's Parlour
- Shepherd Neame rooms

- Town Quay

## **ACTION**

- **JW to liaise with the Alexander Centre in the first instance**

### **4. Project Planning and workstream allocations**

4.1 Members considered the NP project plan and agreed to add an extra line for a consultation period following on from the June exhibition.

4.2 MC and David Simmons (DS) confirmed that discussions at SBC on the emerging Core Strategy raised the prospect of further slippage to that timetable, which could have an impact on that for the NP. Advice from SBC planners was that housing numbers were relatively small for the NP and Swale as a whole. Progress to the referendum before the Core Strategy was finalised was at the Town Council's own risk.

4.3 Tony Fullwood (TF) suggested that currently, housing was not an issue for the NP; AAP2 was. A pause between the two six week stages of formal consultation if the Core Strategy and the NP were not aligned had been considered before. This would require further amendment to the NP timetable.

4.4 It was felt that AAP2 did not comply with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). A discussion with SBC planners on this issue would be helpful.

4.5 On the workstream allocations, JW updated members on the cessation of CPRE's involvement. DCLG had confirmed there would be no financial support for a transitional phase. However, a support grant, of up to £7,000 could be applied for, to be spent as the NPSG saw fit. This could pay for the June exhibition and external consultant support.

4.6 Members considered the workstreams for the June exhibition. It was agreed that the following should form the exhibition content: drawings, maps, photos, heritage assets, and a timetable of the past, present and future of the Plan, including consultations to date. The theme should focus on how the Creek could look in the future, incorporating the streetscape strategy and heritage assets. There should also be detailed explanation of what a NP was, and the alternatives. There should also be reference to the community's involvement, the opportunity to influence planning at a local level, and how development would contribute to infrastructure through e.g. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The narrative should include the vision for the Creek.

## **ACTIONS**

- **JW to discuss the exhibition and support with Sue Jobbins (previous consultant through CPRE) and to organise the exhibition project team**
- **JW to chase up the drawings from the illustration workshop**

- **JW to amend the project plan as set out in 4.1 to include a specific row for the 3 week consultation event in June**
- **JW to arrange a meeting with SBC planners and members of the Steering Group to discuss AAP2 and the NPPF**
- **Steering Group members to populate the workstream allocations list**

## **5. Heritage Assets List**

5.1 Anne Salmon (AS) said the current draft included background on the NPPF and the wider conservation approach as set out in Swale BC's 'Faversham Conservation Area Character Appraisal'. It aimed to justify the identified views of the Creek and to set out recommendations as to what might aid the management of conservation elements around the Creek. The next step would be to ensure the heritage assets were identified on the base map. AS would discuss with Natalie Earl (NE). Members thanked AS and John Sell (JS) for their work on the list.

## **6. Budget**

6.1 There had been no expenditure with the exception of consultancy fees.

### **ACTION**

- **NE to provide an update at the next meeting**

## **7. Any Other Business**

7.1 The following were raised under AOB:

(i) Feedback from DCLG workshop. JW said it had been an interesting meeting, with a brief speech from the Minister (Brandon Lewis), and a presentation by Tom Walker (circulated to the Group). It was clear that many NPs were focused on housing allocations, but there were still a lot of concerns about the process, and many representatives felt more support was needed from the centre. DCLG officials were happy to give advice at any time

(ii) Waterside Close s106 agreement. Members agreed it would be appropriate for the Town Council to write to the Chief Executive of SBC chasing progress on the footpath creation order included in the section 106 order, made when planning permission was given, along with the ramp to be constructed by SBC at the north end. MC had e-mailed SBC officials who were investigating various designs for the walkway

### **ACTION**

- **Town Council to be asked to write to the Chief Executive of SBC chasing progress on Waterside Close footpath s106 agreement**

(iii) UCL survey on NPs. Members felt the survey would be burdensome and required detailed data held by e.g. SBC

### **ACTION**

- **JW to send a more general response on behalf of the Steering Group**

(iv) Various websites. Members were interested in the different websites being publicised. It was agreed they could be helpful information conduits and should be used to update readers on progress or to pose questions

(v) Faversham Creek Consortium (FCC) AGM. MC gave an update. 65 people had attended and heard updates on the Neighbourhood Plan and the FCC's priorities for 2013/14, Chris Wright's thoughts on a swing bridge, Bob Berk on his dredging work, and Brian Caffarey on Footpath ZF5

(vi) MC asked that the swing bridge be on the agenda for the May meeting

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

8.1 The dates of the next two meetings were confirmed:

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