

## Ashtead Neighbourhood Forum

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2015

<b>Place</b>	The Ralli Room, Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall 10.00 - 11.50 am
<b>Present</b>	Jean Bradley (JB), Daphne Burnett (DB), Bob Cane, Ray Cane (RC), Mary Cooper (MC), Andy Ellis (AE), Roy Guy (RG), David Hawksworth (DH) Kate Henderson (KH) Elizabeth Hrywniak (EH), John Longstaff (JL), James Millar Craig, Allan Mornement, Glynis Peterkin (GP), Peter Smith, Sue Stansfield, Di Stirling (DS), Alex Tombs (AT), Chris Townsend (CT), Tony Tuley (TT) and Sofia Welsby (SW)
<b>In attendance</b>	Jane Smith (JSm) MVDC
<b>Apologies</b>	Gordon Chilton, Tony Cooper, Mark Everett, David Harper, Nigel Herbert (NH), Marie Pigden, Pam Ventham-Smith and Patricia Wiltshire.
<b>Non attendees</b>	Mary Chandler, Bryan Davis, Glynis Gatenby, Zoe Green, Paula Hancock, Paul Hancock, John Morgan (JM), Jackie Quinn

Topic	Action
<p><b>1 &amp; 2 Introduction and Minutes of the Last Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The apologies were read out and TT reported that Denise Newman had resigned from the Forum as she is no longer able to attend meetings. It is to be noted that Carol Mack has also had to resign.</li> <li>The minutes of the November meeting were agreed and signed.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3. Meeting Dates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TT reported on the survey of Forum members undertaken to find an alternative day on which to meet in that Saturdays had been found to be a difficult day for some. The results showed that out of 21 responses, 17 preferred Saturdays and so meetings will be held as published in Item 9.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. Sustainability Appraisal</b></p> <p>GP announced that the Sustainability Appraisal report of Ashtead had been published on the website and other reports on Transport, Infrastructure and the Environment were in the process of being written. DH stated that there were some errors in the environment section of the report and he is to send corrections to GP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RG asked for clarification regarding the status of the report. Was the version on the website the final version or was it there for consultation purposes and therefore could be changed. GP explained that it was there for consultation purposes and that it will only be formally approved once the whole village has been able to vote on it. In order to clarify this situation it was agreed that the word "Draft" would be added to the title of the report.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">DH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GP/ TT</p>
<p><b>5. Housing Report</b></p> <p>AT gave a brief introduction to the report and Summary found on pages 2 and 3. He emphasised the fact that the need for 2 / 3 bedroom houses far exceeds the supply and those being built. He was also critical of the lack of effectiveness of the current MVDC current policy in ensuring that priority is given to this type of housing in Ashtead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RG asked how Ashtead might help MVDC achieve its policy in that it's not seen to be working at the moment. JS replied that Ashtead needs to</li> </ul>	

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<p>give MV clear instructions on the type of housing required. GP said that it wasn't MV's policy we are following but our own policy based on research undertaken in Ashtead. Having done our research it was a case of seeing how the two policies agree. ACV is working independently of MV. AT added that ACV can help MV be more effective by making submissions based on our research. He assumed that the ARA had done this in the past but ACV needs to be stronger. AE stated that there is a policy in MV to steer clear of hard numbers. ACV in contrast should use numbers and not terms such as 'a few' when referring to the number of properties to be built.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was asked, if it is perceived that there is a need for 2/3 bedroom houses, doesn't the fact that they are not being built suggest that there isn't sufficient demand. AE suggested that an empty plot would make money either way but the profit would be larger for 4/5 bedroom houses.</li> <li>• JS stated that the housing policy is to be found in the MVDC Core Strategy and MV regularly monitors its performance against policy. At the moment its performance is seen to be good but that is because it is being marked against the whole district. It may not be judged as such perhaps in Ashtead and Bookham. ACV needs to put forward a stronger policy in the NDP to help the situation. The development on the site of "Winstanley" in The Marld for two 4-bedroom houses was given the go-ahead by the Inspectorate. He saw it only as a small scheme so it didn't matter but it is the accumulation of small sites that is of concern. She said that the MV policy isn't really working in small schemes such as this.</li> <li>• CT brought to the notice of the meeting the fact that Churchill, the developers, are thinking of building more retirement homes next to those already in place in Warren Court and had held a meeting at APMH to gauge local reaction.</li> <li>• JS said that ACV needs to send the message out that smaller profits are to be expected. AE added that the whole of the NDP needs to show that Ashtead is for the people of Ashtead. ACV needs to create tough rules but it can't stop people enlarging their homes. The Forum needs to support the need for stricter numbers.</li> <li>• EH told the meeting that she lived in a little group of 2-bedroomed houses and that they had all been taken by outsiders from London.</li> <li>• DH said that there should be a phrase in the document to say that our policy is to have 2/3 bedroom houses and highlight the problem of inspectors allowing small schemes to go ahead.</li> <li>• AE stated that the housing sub-group could have put draft policies into the document but hadn't done so but the day's discussions would now help them do this.</li> <li>• TT asked if ACV could create a policy to say that The Murrey's should be restricted to 2/3 bedroom houses when it becomes available. JS replied that ACV could put forward both site specific and district policies.</li> <li>• SW pointed out that an increased number of smaller houses creates more traffic problems and strain on the infrastructure.</li> <li>• RG asked if there had been research into the lack of care homes in the</li> </ul>	



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<p>but are awaiting the outcome of the election, but she urged ACV to go ahead and create policies as agreed.</p> <p>The two MV statements have been put on the ACV website alongside the relevant information.</p> <p><u>Current Plans</u></p> <p>There was a short discussion as to the value of writing to the Inspector to appeal against his decision giving the go-ahead for the development on the 'Winstanley site, but in that no more evidence could be put forward, it was decided not to do so.</p> <p>The appeal for the development at Wichenford is still to be seen by the Inspector.</p>	
<p><b>8. AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JS was asked if there was a current Local Plan that could be consulted and replied that there was the Core Strategy of 2009, and the MV Local Plan of 2000 although old, was still relevant.</li> <li>• CT stated that it was the duty for neighbouring councils to cooperate on key issues and announced that he was soon to attend a meeting of London boroughs to discuss housing.</li> <li>• AE reported that the delivery of newsletters hadn't quite gone to plan this time and asked for further help.</li> <li>• DB, who owns the Rye Meadows, told the meeting that sewage had been flowing from neighbouring houses into the Rye Brook. Following heavy rain, drain covers have blown and discharge has flown into the brook. Thames Water is aware of the situation as well as the local councillor but the problem is as yet unsolved. JL, who is writing the report on Infrastructure, is to look into the problem as will CT. It was advised that David Baker, one of the Rye Brook volunteers who knows the problem well, should also be consulted.</li> </ul>	JL / CT
<p><b>9. Dates for meetings at APMH in 2015 are as follows:</b></p> <p>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September and Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November.</p>	