

Ashtead Neighbourhood Forum

Minutes of the Meeting held on Saturday 12th September 2015

Place	The Ralli Room, Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall 10.00 - 11.40 am
Present	Jean Bradley (JB), Ray Cane (RC), Mary Cooper (MC), Tony Cooper, Andy Ellis (AE), Paula Hancock (PH), Paul Hancock, John Longstaff (JL), James Millar Craig, John Morgan (JM), Glynis Peterkin (GP), Sue Stansfield, Di Stirling (DS) and Tony Tuley (TT).
In attendance	Jane Smith (JS) MVDC
Apologies	Bob Cane, Gordon Chilton, Mark Everett, David Harper (DH), David Hawksworth (PDH), Kate Henderson (KH), Nigel Herbert (NH), Allan Mornement (AM), Marie Pigden, Peter Smith, Alex Tombs, Pam Ventham-Smith, and Patricia Wiltshire (PW)
Non attendees	Mary Chandler, Bryan Davis, Glynis Gatenby, Zoe Green, Roy Guy, Elizabeth Hrywniak, Jackie Quinn, Chris Townsend (CT), Sofia Welsby (SW)

Topic	Action
<p>1 & 2 Introduction and Minutes of the Last Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The apologies were read out. • The minutes of the May meeting were agreed and signed and it was confirmed that all the action points had been addressed. 	
<p>3. Housing Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AHP1 and AHP 3 Draft Housing Policies were discussed in detail. • AHP1: The use of percentages was discussed and the change of the originally suggested percentages to those recommended by the East Surrey Strategic Housing Market Assessment was queried. JS explained that although the information was old it was due to be updated possibly in the autumn. The numbers, however, were unlikely to change to any great extent and were a good guide. • Various alternative wordings were put forward in an effort to strengthen the policy. AM had sent in the suggestion that for AHP 11 'or near as possible' could be tightened to 'to the nearest round number'. This was eventually rejected when it was thought the outcome of the percentages themselves would achieve this. It was agreed however that the word 'must' should be replaced by the word 'should'. • For AHP 1 2, AM suggested 'be considered favourably' could be tightened up to 'receive preference'. Following a short discussion on this it was agreed instead to change the wording at the end to 'be encouraged'. • For AHP 13 the opening words 'On sites of 10 or more dwellings' is to be deleted because for the moment, the Government has changed its policy and money can be received from all development. JS suggested looking at the policy as put forward by Bookham to help with the wording of this part of the policy. • The use of the distance 400 metres was queried and GP replied that it was based on its use in another NDP. AE then produced a map showing which parts of the village lay outside the 400 metre zones of bus stops. After a short discussion it was finally agreed that the zones 	<p>Housing Sub. Com.</p> <p>Housing Sub. Com.</p> <p>Housing Sub. Com.</p> <p>Housing Sub. Com.</p>

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<p>should be based on the shopping areas and not on bus stops. Following this it was agreed that the word 'must' would again be changed to 'should'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AM's suggestion for AHP3 was that 'for the needs of the elderly' could instead be more specific and say 'must demonstrate that they have been designed for easy adaptation for the needs of the elderly and/or persons with a disability'. JS replied that this couldn't be included because the Government has laid down that housing policies can't specify for the elderly or disabled. They don't like prescriptive standards. • For AHP4 JS suggested that ACV pick up on the criteria for Murrey's Court as laid out by MVDC. <p>TT then asked the meeting to vote on the adoption of the Draft Housing Policy and the majority agreed with two abstentions.</p> <p>TT then read out an email from DH, who was unable to be at the meeting, in which he proposed stopping all work on the NDP. His argument was based on the fact that developers of warden assisted accommodation are able to acquire land for more money than competing developers of 2/3 bedroom 'normal' developments because the latter are forced to build a high percentage of affordable homes. He suggested that unless the proposed housing policy reduced the targeted affordable homes rate to something like 10% of homes built, developers of normal units could not compete with those of warden assisted units. JS replied that she was not sure that he was accurate. TT asked that DH be thanked for his contribution to the discussion but it was agreed by all to carry on with the NDP.</p>	<p>Housing Sub. Com.</p>
<p>4. Transport Report</p> <p>DS pointed out that there had been a slight change in the circumstances to the section describing the widening of the Woodfield Lane approach to the station. GP explained that a proposal had been made at MVDC for the scheme to be refused. The vote on the scheme having been tied, the chairman of the Local Committee Meeting put forward that the decision should be deferred until their next meeting in December. CT was hoping to arrange for an earlier meeting to be held because there was concern for the trees if the go-ahead was given in the new year when trees are dormant.</p> <p>DS summed this up by saying that the wording of the report was still correct but the outcome was now as yet unsure. It was unanimously agreed that the report should be adopted.</p>	
<p>5. Infrastructure</p> <p>TT told the meeting that the draft Infrastructure Report would be discussed together with the draft policies at the next meeting. JL assured ACV that the report would be sent out in the next few days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linked to this, JS was invited to tell the meeting about the infrastructure Review that is taking place in MVDC at the moment. She reported that the consultation on the levels of the Community Infrastructure Levy to be required had taken place and the results should be in place by summer next year. MVDC are now preparing to consult the whole community to ask for its needs. Every household will be contacted by post and perceived improvements needed in the infrastructure will be asked for. 	<p>Action JL</p> <p>ALL</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PH was assured that the results for Ashtead would be made known to the village. Consultation will take place in the autumn and MVDC will report back in the spring. 	
<p>6. The Environment Report</p> <p>RC was concerned that there was no policy concerning the presence of trees in our streets, which are often not replaced when they die or are cut down. They contribute enormously to the character of the residential parts of Ashtead. JS advised that trees on the verges alongside roads were the concern of Surrey County Council Highways Department and the NDP could have no influence over them. The NDP can only make policies concerning trees involved on sites being developed.</p> <p>There being no more concerns the draft report was adopted.</p>	
<p>7. The Economy Report</p> <p>TT reported that there had been no comments sent regarding the Economy Report. There being no comments from the floor the draft report was adopted.</p>	
<p>8. The Plan to NDP</p> <p>TT explained that if the draft NDP is to be sent out in the New Year so that the consultation could finish before March (the period after which councillors and officers are unable to take part in community decision making due to impending elections) draft policies would have to be decided on soon. It was agreed that an extra meeting would be useful to help facilitate overall agreement at the November meeting. The date fixed is Saturday 24th October at the usual place and time.</p>	
<p>9. AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TT reminded the meeting that officers were due for re-election in November. Proposals for the post of Chairman and Secretary should be sent to TT. It was agreed that meetings for 2016 should be booked at the same frequency as this year and as near to the same dates as possible. 	<p>ALL</p> <p>JB</p>
<p>10. Dates for meetings at APMH in 2015 are as follows:</p> <p>Saturday 24th October and Saturday 14th November.</p>	<p>ALL</p>