

# Minutes of the Strategic Planning Meeting held on Minutes 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Present :** Cllr B Beeley (Chairman), Cllr S Al-Hamdani, Cllr R Knotts, Mr A Fletcher, Ms C Wilkins, Mr G Fielding, Mr P Clegg, Mr P Sykes, Mr K Begley, Ms C Wilson, Mr G Whitehead, Mr A Roughley, Mr G Griffiths, Mr A Taylor

**Apologies received:** Ms G Brownridge (OMBC), Ms S Driscoll, Ms K. Hodges

## 1, **Declarations of interest**

All attendees declared an interest in item 3 of the agenda.

## 2, **Minutes of the Meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023**

With one amendment to attendee Ms G Brownridge, the minutes were then accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman

## 3, **Feedback from Actions agreed at the January meeting.**

These were covered later in the meeting.

## 4, **To discuss Consultation with Community Group representatives and to the wider community**

Cllr Beeley explained that this meeting had been called to invite the community groups and start off the consultation period of the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan and to agree the next steps. There was much discussion around the best way forward.

Cllr Al-Hamdani explained that we have to demonstrate that we have communicated through as many channels as possible to communicate with as many residents as possible and to show to the inspector all the methods we have used to facilitate this.

Cllr Knotts advised he was looking into funding from the government sources but was finding it really difficult to find a way in which we would qualify for funding.

Mr Fletcher advised that Saddleworth has 25,000 residents, whereas other areas that had already developed a Neighbourhood Plan were far smaller with fewer residents and therefore it was easier and cheaper to organise their consultation.

There was some discussion around the communication methods we had used 3 years ago when this project was initially launched to raise awareness in the community.

Different methods were discussed; from door drops, social media, via the community groups, working with schools and colleges, youth groups, parent mail, Saddleworth Monthly, presentation at the Civic Hall etc.

Ms Wilson suggested developing an A5 flyer to begin the process. She also suggested clever posters displayed in key locations around the borough with a QR code link for residents to scan which would take them to the next stage for more information.

Cllr Al-Hamdani advised an initial estimate for a Royal Mail drop to every household was too expensive.

Cllr Beeley asked whether the Community groups would be able to hand deliver to their residents. All group said this would be possible. It was agreed that Cllr Al-Hamdani would look into getting a list of households in each area via the electoral register to share with the groups.

Cllr Knotts suggested whether Saddleworth Monthly would consider a wrap around advert. Although it was agreed not every resident receives this every month.

Ms Wilkins confirmed that the document would need to go to all businesses in the area. Mr Fletcher confirmed the farming groups would also need to be included.

After more discussion the next steps were agreed:-

- 1, to notify residents of the consultation period
- 2, to carry out the consultation
- 3, to provide feedback to the residents following consultation.

The consultation will start after the elections in May and will last approx. 6 months to the end of the year.

Cllr Al-Hamdani will develop a simple A5 flyer to raise awareness in the community, which will be shared with all the community groups to hand deliver, social media; SPC and all community groups have their own Facebook Pages to display this; Saddleworth Monthly, Parish website.

Posters "Have you heard about this?" with QR codes will also be developed and sited in key locations across Saddleworth.

Cllr Al-Hamdani will then develop a summarised leaflet of all the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan and what it means for the residents of Saddleworth. This will then have a link to the full document which will be displayed on SPC's new website which will hopefully be operational by June so should fit in nicely. This website will have a hit rate mechanism so we will be able to see how many people have accessed the information.

## **5, Update re Transpennine Rail Plan**

Mr Fletcher gave a brief resume of the plans and the report that he had prepared to summarise. There was some further discussion around this.

Cllr Beeley advised that the Parish Council on Monday evening had carried a Motion:

- to write to Oldham Council, Network Rail the Mayor of Manchester, TfGM, Transport for the North, the Department of Transport and to MP Debbie Abrahams to express our balanced concerns on the need for investment in train infrastructure in Saddleworth, but that the current plans may not achieve the results that are needed; and to emphasise our support for the original Transport for the North plans;
- to invite Transport for the North to come to Saddleworth Parish Council to talk through their proposals, and discuss whether the current plans are achievable, and what their impact would be on local train services and the wider environment.

## **6, SEA screening (Strategic Environmental Assessment)**

There was some discussion around this but it was agreed to defer to the next meeting as Ms Brownridge, who was going to share information in on this, had been unable to attend the meeting.

## **7, Items for the next agenda**

Update on Consultation Progress

SEA Screening

**Next meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 09.30hrs**

