Strategic Planning minutes – 27 July

1. **Apologies** – Georgina Brownridge. Present: Barbara Beeley, Sam Al-Hamdani, Andrew Fletcher, Karen Barton, Kevin Dawson, Roger Blackmore, Meg Birchall, Rob Knotts
2. **Declarations of interest.** None.
3. **Approval of minutes.** Agreed and signed.
4. **Funding for formal consultation.** Rob Knotts explained that our original contact Del Appleby had left the organisation. We are entitled to £10,000 which has to be accounted for. We have previously received £5,000, but only used around £3,500, and had to send the rest back. We are waiting on the Government releasing the money before we can apply. This will largely be for consultation. Rob is to continue monitoring this
5. **Timetable for consultation.** Barbara Beeley explained that we had a meeting earlier this year with the local village associations, who would like to go ahead with putting out copies of the neighbourhood plan, once we have funding. She also suggested that we invite members of the local associations to the September meeting. Rob Knotts suggested that we create a small visual presentation for visiting the villages. Karen Barton said that it was important to get copies of the information out electronically. Andrew Fletcher said that it was important to get preliminary information out earlier so that people were waiting for the plan so that they could comment. He referred to the experience in Holmfirth, where a very large number of people said that they had not heard of it. Barbara Beeley reminded the meeting that there was a public meeting in Uppermill at the start of the process and that can be repeated. Meg Birchall stated again the importance of having a condensed document as very few people will engage with the main document. Rob Knotts said that we should be running workshops in each community. Other suggestions were made to contact the schools, churches, and other community groups. Saddleworth Independent and Saddleworth Monthly could be used, as could the Oldham Council newsletter. Karen Barton requested that an advert be constructed by the communications team for use on social media. All members volunteered to be part of the process, and a meeting for 12 September was agreed, to be presented to the community associations on 28 September. Rob Knotts agreed to consult with the historical society with regards to the views of churches.
6. **HRA screening to be progressed.** Barbara Beeley has the details of the GMEU contact to progress the HRA and agreed to start the process.
7. **Invite community groups to the September meeting.** Karen Allott to invite the community groups.
8. **Items for next agenda.** Andrew Fletcher to provide text for Karen Allott to send to Transport for the North to chase up about the high speed development.

**Next meeting** – working day 12 September; full meeting 28 September.