



Gilston Steering Group

Thursday 20th September 2017
Wallfields- Room 1.11

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Linda Haysey (LH)	EHC
Liz Watts (LW)	EHC
Councillor Robert Brunton (RB)	EHC
Kevin Steptoe (KS)	EHC
Chris Butcher (CB)	EHC
Mary Parsons (MP)	Places for People (via phone)
Anthony Bickmore (AB)	Neighbourhood Plan Group
Mark Orson (MO)	Neighbourhood Plan Group
Bob Toll (BT)	Neighbourhood Plan Group
Jill Buck (JB)	Widford Parish Council
Louise Mansfield (LM)	Allies and Morrison

Apologies: Jan Hayes-Griffin – Hertfordshire County Council
Jamie Cardwell – Essex County Council

1. Introductions

- 1.1 LH began the meeting and set out the agenda.
- 1.2 Members of the meeting introduced themselves.

2. Minutes

Presentation by Louise Mansfield (Allies and Morrison)

- 2.1 LM provided a presentation on the work that Allies and Morrison (A&M) were undertaking in relation to the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town. It was explained to the group that the purpose of the work was to identify an overarching spatial vision for the Garden Town and to produce a design charter that would then inform the masterplanning process for the respective sites that formed the Garden Town.
- 2.2 LM noted that the Garden Town initiative involved the proposed development of approximately 16,000 homes in the Harlow area by 2033. This figure included around 3,000 homes at the Gilston Area, with the remainder being provided after 2033 to meet longer term needs. Other development sites were located to the south, west and east of Harlow, as well as over 6,000 homes being provided within the existing urban area of the town.
- 2.3 LM outlined the work that A&M had undertaken so far. This had included a cycle visit to the various proposed development sites and a review of existing



policies for the three local authorities (East Herts, Harlow and Epping Forest Councils). In addition a number of stakeholder interviews had taken place with interested parties, including service providers and local community representatives. A stakeholder workshop had also been held on 13th September which had proved a useful exercise.

2.4 It was noted that the work undertaken to date had been based around four key Garden Town principles:

- Placemaking and Homes;
- Landscape and Natural Environment;
- Economy and Regeneration; and
- Sustainable transport, Health and Wellbeing.

2.5 The visioning work produced would be based around these themes.

2.6 Work had also been undertaken to assess patterns of movement in the Harlow area and the way in which different locations are connected. Part of the Garden Town work will be to identify how linkages between key destinations could be enhanced.

2.7 A&M had also commenced an assessment of the topography of the area and the visual links that exist, including those related to particular landmarks. Consideration has also been given to the existing 'green wedges' in Harlow and how these could be utilised better as spaces for recreation.

2.8 In formulating a vision and design charter for the Garden Town consideration must also be given to the very different characters of the wider area, from the urban nature of the new town of Harlow, to that of the surrounding villages.

2.9 Improving the economic performance of Harlow was also a key issue in accordance with the vision of the London Stansted Cambridge Corridor (LSCC). This could be achieved by enhancements to the town centre, providing higher quality skilled jobs and the delivery of aspirational family homes.

2.10 LM concluded by setting out the next steps for the work. This included a further workshop in October/November and development of thematic position statements. A draft report would be prepared in November, before the project reaches its conclusion with a published final report in December.

Concept Framework Consultation – Summary of Responses

2.11 CB presented a schedule of responses that had been received through period of public consultation on the draft Concept Framework. It was noted that a variety of helpful responses had been submitted, both from members of the public and statutory organisations such as Hertfordshire County Council and Historic England.



- 2.12 CB confirmed that the interim response from the Neighbourhood Plan Group had been received earlier that day. It was confirmed that a final response would be sent to the Council by the end of September. Urban Silence, who were working with the Group had provided some excellent support and advice.
- 2.13 CB indicated that careful consideration would need to be given to all of the responses received prior to the preparation of the final version of the document.

Community Group and Steering Group Action Logs

- 2.14 The group discussed the action logs which had been updated. It was agreed that they could be improved further to clearly outline when different actions were to be completed by, and by whom. This would add clarity to the process and also ensure that actions were completed in a timely manner.

Establishment of Topic Specific Working Groups

- 2.15 LW noted that there were no further community workshops planned. However, in order to inform ongoing work on the Gilston Area, it was agreed that topic specific working groups should be set up to discuss discrete themes. These groups would inform the more detailed masterplanning work that would take place after the District Plan Examination.
- 2.16 It was agreed that consideration should be given to the different topics that these groups would cover.

Date of next meeting: 25th October 2017 (19:00) at Wallfields