

Minutes of Peasmarsh Development Working Group

Meeting – Tuesday 24th February.

The meeting opened at 7.30 p.m.

Tonia and Rose have been continuing to deliver leaflets to many parts of the village including the caravan park.

The caravan park was then discussed in some depth.

- There are approximately 33 caravans and 60 occupants. These are essentially people for whom a caravan is all they can afford in spite of most residents working. It illustrates the problem at hand: It is unlikely that any new houses built in Peasmarsh or anywhere else local will be an option.
- There is no evidence that RDC has taken in to account the additional demand on water, sewage and electricity systems these residents have; in other words RDC may have underestimated the total demand
- The residents are technically of no fixed abode which renders them unable to vote and, by implication, unable to complete the feedback forms. As they may have the most to gain from development of affordable and social housing in Peasmarsh it is remiss that their views are not represented
- The group to consider suitable ways to address these points

Marcus delivered a few leaflets to outlying houses in Church Lane and Dew Lane. The particular value in that exercise was hearing people's stories and being told that they would be happy to complete the form even though they were initially hesitant to do so. The key takeaway is that if this is indicative of the village as a whole, it bodes well.

A neighbour in Starvecrow Lane offered to deliver some leaflets to their neighbours (at least half of which are holiday lets). This area has been particularly badly affected by power outages.

Georgina and David have continued to deliver leaflets (and required extras!) Apologies to any volunteers missed as many of you have been busy distributing forms.

Is there a strategy for the rollout of new builds? Over how long would any development be expected to happen? **Ask at exhibition.**

It was commented that the sheer volume of houses in the adjacent Pippins and Kitewood developments could lead to a separate village. The total of all new builds could increase the number of houses in Peasmarsh by 26% and the population by 30%. These numbers caused some alarm.

Is there any protection for Dark Skies? Anecdotally, several villagers who have moved to Peasmarsh from more urban areas have commented on being able to see the stars. This is a small point but worth noting in light of increasing mental health issues and, in that context, illustrative of why villages need to survive. **All to check RDC Local Plan re dark Skies/Ask at exhibition.**

Do we have any indication of how many feedback forms have been completed? How do we find out? **Ask at exhibition.**

It is apparently possible for individuals to see online comments from other contributors. If any information is disclosed that can be used to identify an individual, it would be a breach of GDPR legislation. **If anyone can recall how to do this, please share with the group.**

There was discussion around RDC's sustainability score for Peasmarch being almost entirely dependent on services provided by Jempson's. RDC has effectively balanced the village's entire 17-year development strategy on one small independent family business (which is now subject to direct competition from a multinational for the first time in its 90-year history).

Marcus to attend an exhibition as soon as possible and put some of the points above to the planning officer. Obviously anyone else can do so too.

As a reminder, the dates and venues for RDC's forthcoming Local Plan exhibitions are as follows:

- Thursday 26th February, 3pm-7pm - Ticehurst Village Hall, Lower High Street, Ticehurst TN5 7BB
- **Saturday 28th February, 1.30pm-5.30pm – Westfield Community Hall, 21 Workhouse Lane, Westfield TN35 4QL**
- Tuesday 3rd March, 3pm–7pm - The Pelham Community Hub, Holliers Hill, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 2DD
- **Friday 6th March, 3pm-7pm – Tilling Green Community Centre, Mason Road, Rye TN31 7BE**
- Tuesday 10th March, 3pm-7pm – Battle Memorial Hall, 81 High Street, Battle TN33 0AQ
- Thursday 12th March, 3pm-7pm – St Marks Church Hall (Little Common), Green Lane, Bexhill-on-Sea TN39 4B7.

Per RDC: These will be drop-in sessions, where people can drop in at any point during the times stated, in order to view the exhibition boards, view hard copies of the draft Local Plan, and speak with Planning Officers. There will not be formal presentations. Each session will take the same format so there is no need to attend more than one.

The next meeting is to be held on **Tuesday 3rd March at 7.30p.m.** in the Memorial Hall which Marcus will chair as Simon is unavailable. The focus of the next meeting will be to continue to support and help the members of our community who require assistance or guidance.

We have some volunteers to staff the Information Table at Jempson's - thank you! – but we need some more. If you can spare a couple of hours that would be so helpful. If anyone who is considering volunteering can get to one of the exhibitions first that may help. The soonest and nearest is Westfield (unless using public transport!)

Similarly, the drop-in sessions at the Memorial Hall also need some helpers.

Next step	Who	When
Leaflets to be delivered by volunteers across designated parts of the village	Main Street delivery is the main focus for the week ahead.	Ongoing
Jempson's Information table	<p>Volunteers required</p> <p>Friday 6th March 10.00a.m. – 1.00p.m. 1 Tarquin Desoutter 2 1.00p.m. – 3.00p.m. 1 Sue Cavilla 2</p> <p>Saturday 7th March 10.00a.m. – 1.00p.m. 1 2 1.00p.m. – 3.00p.m. 1 2</p>	
Village Drop-in support centre	<p>Volunteers required</p> <p>Sunday 1st March 11.00a.m. – 3.00p.m. 1 Marcus Gould + laptop 2 3 Sunday 8th March 11.00a.m. – 3.00p.m. 1 Marcus Gould + laptop 2 3</p>	Sunday 1 st March Sunday 8 th March