Agenda item: 6

Henley-on-Thames Town Council

HENLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group

19 DECEMBER 2016

Agenda item: **TO CONSIDER** the strategy and tactics to be adopted by the NPSG to ensure compliance with the Joint Henley & Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan (JHHNP) to the highest possible degree.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The JHHNP is not being adhered to in the way expected by HTC and the people of Henley.

2. Background Information

2.1 The current situation regarding the JHHNP is that SODC have stated that it is outdated and therefore they fall back on their more general local plan to determine applications.

2.2 SODC do not have a 5 year land supply which encourages speculative applications on sites outside of the JHHNP and financial constraints prevent them from risking expensive appeals.

2.3 These factors have resulted in key policies within the JHHNP to be ignored even though SODC twice inspected the document, part funded it and signed it off as being good.

2.4 The case law, Crane v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government & Anor [2015] EWHC 425 (Admin), supports that the SODC's claim that the JHHNP is outdated, can be successfully challenged.

3. Detailed Consideration

3.1 The NPSG on behalf of HTC will adopt the following strategy and tactics to ensure the closest possible compliance with the JHHNP that the Henley people voted for.

NPSG Strategy

- To lobby and promote enforcement of the JHHNP
- Ensure that we engage the necessary support to achieve compliance with the JHHNP
- Undertake actions to level the playing field where necessary

NPSG Tactics

- Lobby both DCLG and SODC at the highest levels
- Engage with the wider community to support these lobbying efforts
- Prepare for planning applications by working with developers to ensure that they comply with the JHHNP
- Prepare for planning applications which do not comply with either the letter or spirit of the JHHNP including:
    - Setting up team consisting of member of NPSG, member of previous JHHNP working group, member of public with specific local knowledge of site
    - Submit comments to SODC planning before the planning officer decides on the application
    - Deploy services of Planning Consultant of which the following would be examples:
        - To articulate NPSG requirements to SODC planning department before officer decides on the application
        - To prepare the speeches for the SODC planning meeting
        - To present the case for objectors at the SODC planning meeting
    - Encourage residents of JHHNP area to send their comments to SODC planning website

The Mayor, Councillor Julian Brookes
13 December 2016