

## **Minutes of the first Wickham Market Neighbourhood Plan – Economic and Infrastructure Working Group**

**Thursday 07 April 2016, 7.30pm Gospel Hall Close, Wickham Market**

Present: George Hering (Chairman), Edna Salmon. Bryan Archer, Arthur Stansfield

### **1) Apologies and opening discussion**

There were no apologies - everyone present.

Discussion took place regards how the Neighbourhood Plan might benefit businesses in Wickham Market. It was recognised that the Neighbourhood Plan was as much about protection of what we have and value today as it is the opportunity to improve sustainability for the future.

### **2) Terms of Reference**

A review of the terms of Reference for the working Group was made and they were felt appropriate to future needs.

### **3) Open Meeting**

It was agreed that we would produce approx 4 questions to gather public opinion on their retail shopping experience and movement around the Parish. (The chairman is to produce draft questions for distribution and comment to the WG).

Questions should encourage response from the public by way of Post It notes. Images of the Hill and adjoining roads might be interesting talking points.

The Chairman gave his apologies that because of holiday commitment he wouldn't be able to attend meeting. Edna Salmon and Bryan Archer both said they would be able to attend and Arthur Stansfield would look at his diary for availability.

### **4) Business Survey**

It was thought that the only way to establish engagement with the business community was to create a carefully worded survey specifically targeted to businesses throughout the Parish. The questions would include business growth prospects, employment, housing, roads and parking, public transport, broadband, mobile and climate change. (Chairman to draft a set of questions for further discussion).

The questionnaire would be personally presented to business owners. Follow up would be made within two weeks of distribution.

From this survey we would expect to establish business requirement regards local jobs, business growth and requirement for land and buildings. It would also determine any current and future need for affordable homes for employees.

In order to carry out a business survey and to ensure all businesses are covered it was decided that a full list of businesses together with contact details should be created. The list would be created by ..... with help from the rest of the WG

**5) Protection and improvement of main business sites**

The main business sites in the Parish are the Hill and The Industrial Estate at Border Cot Lane. Questions will be asked about improvements that could be made to the general environment of these areas.

**6) Roads and Transport**

This was discussed in detail particularly the parking and pedestrian movement around the Hill. With future job creation at Lehmann House there was concern shown that current car parking facilities would not be adequate.

The report completed by The Parish Council Traffic and Parking working group was distributed before the meeting and the link to the SCDC Local Plan was also distributed to Working Group members. Both documents will be included in future research.

Edna Salmon suggested that David Chenery might be consulted regards future research.

**7) Climate Change**

The group had a brief discussion regards how we might encourage business and the public to use more sustainable energy sources. Hybrid vehicles and electric charging points might be one consideration. Arthur Stansfield is going to consider what questions can be asked of the business community.

**8) Date for next meeting**

The group didn't feel the need for another meeting before the public open meeting. All further business can be conducted by email.

There being no further business the Chairman formally closed the meeting at 9.30pm

Signed..... Date.....