

**NOTES FROM THE RESIDENTS MEETING TO  
DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING A  
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN  
HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2017 BETWEEN 7PM – 9PM IN THE VILLAGE  
HALL , BACK LANE , HORSMONDEN.**

*(This meeting has been organised by Horsmonden Parish Council on behalf of residents of the village).*

PRESENT: 125 people registered at the meeting

IN ATTENDANCE: Lucy Noakes - The Clerk of the Parish Council offered to take notes.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None recorded at or prior to the meeting.

**2. GUEST SPEAKERS:**

Cllr March gave a short introduction to the evening explaining that Horsmonden had embarked upon a Village Vision in 2012 which was finalised in 2014. This was a parish Plan which set out the aims and aspirations of the village for the future and gave the Parish Council and working groups a basis upon which to try and achieve these goals. At that time TWBC had a Local plan in force which was to run until 2025, and under which approximately 6000 homes were thought to be required in the borough most of which had been allocated. This reduced the requirement for a NH plan at this stage and the parish Council had just received their remit from the Village Vision so that their priorities were to try and aid the working group to accomplish some of the goals and aims identified.

Since this, central government have now changed how the housing figures are calculated and the TWBC Plan has been deemed 'out of date' with a new plan to now be delivered which will be required to outline allocations for approximately 13000 homes and will run until 2033. This increased pressure for housing is much more likely to affect Horsmonden and has put NH planning back in the picture.

**KELVIN HINTON (TWBC)**

Mr Hinton showed those present a power point presentation which explained briefly the position which TWBC had got to with their new Local Plan and the approximate timescale of a Neighbourhood Plan, and how this would fit into the procedure. He gave a short explanation of what a Neighbourhood plan is and what could be achieved as well as outlining the help and advice which TWBC could offer if the parish should decide to go ahead with a plan.

Mr Hinton made it clear that the parish could still influence the Local Plan whether or not they decided to go ahead with a NH Plan and that for a NH Plan to be developed the village would require the resources of both volunteers to run the project plus substantial finances.

**JULIA NEWMAN (Hawkhurst PC and Chair to Hawkhurst's NH planning group)**

Cllr Newman outlined how Hawkhurst had dealt with their plan and gave advice on some of the pitfalls which they had come up against in Hawkhurst and how they had tried dealt with these.

**COLIN WILLIS (Chair of Goudhurst NH planning group.)**

Mr Willis gave a breakdown of how Goudhurst had embarked on their plan and some of the methods they had used for getting people involved and making sure that residents filled in their questionnaires, by making full use of all methods of publicity.

**3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION**

The public were then given a chance to ask questions to each of the speakers in turn.

Cllr March closed the meeting by asking for a show of hands for those who would be in favour of the parish developing a Neighbourhood plan and there was a majority vote in favour of this suggestion.

**The meeting close just after 9pm.**