

Deepcut Resident's Group

Minutes of Meeting of 23rd April 2009

Time: 7:30pm
 Location: Committee Room 1, Surrey Heath House
 Attendees: Cllr Mike Drew, Cllr David Whitcroft
 Jenny Rickard, Helen Murch, Nick Irvine (SHBC)
 Sue Cartwright, Paul Deach, Howard Hyde, David Parsons, Martin
 Flick, Angela Mitchell, Michael Brydges

		Responsibility for Actions
1.	Apologies where received from Carol Drew and Melanie Sharp.	
2.	A request was made asking for the minutes to include action points.	SHBC
3.	The Group was shown a series of images of Deepcut by Helen Murch. After viewing an image of the Deepcut village sign located at the bottom of Deepcut Bridge Road, residents noted that it needed cleaning.	Residents
4.	The group was also shown a series of images of new development at Eltham Heath, Fleet and Queen Elizabeth Park, Guildford. A number of residents expressed a preference for the character of the Queen Elizabeth Park development. Some considerable discussion then developed as a result of viewing the photographs.	
5.	Residents expressed a strong opinion that any new development should retain a rural feel and be a rural village.	
5.	HM asked residents to think about places they liked and places they disliked. What was it about them that made some of them attractive and others not. Features such as number and size of buildings, building heights and styles, amount of space between buildings, the amount of greenery, the types of materials used, the facilities that were there, business and activity were raised as possible factors which would influence how people felt about places. HM suggested that people spend the next few months thinking about the places around them and going and having a look at new developments such as Elvetham Heath and Queen Elizabeth Park. Jennets Park in Bracknell was also mentioned. HM asked residents to let her know of any other settlements or developments that they felt could be good or bad examples of settlement design and development. Photographs would be	Residents

	particularly helpful.	
	HM stressed that this was a once in a lifetime opportunity to get involved in planning a new settlement. The time to think about issues of character and layout, design and facilities was now.	All
	HM explained that the scale of the development site was so large that it would overwhelm the existing village. It was also pointed out that the site was very fragmented. SHBC officers did not want to see future developers trying to bolt their development onto the existing village. Instead, it was felt that the scale of the development created an opportunity to remould Deepcut and create a new and better settlement.	
6.	Jenny Rickard explained that the Council wanted to develop a Vision for the future development of Deepcut that was based on the community and other stakeholders views. To aid this process the Council would be sending out a questionnaire to 3000 addresses in the local community in the week commencing 27 th April. The questionnaire would seek residents views on what they liked and disliked about the existing Deepcut, and what they would like to see happen in a future Deepcut. Both JR and HM stressed that the questionnaire was designed to get people thinking about Deepcut and its future at a strategic level. Some residents raised issues relating to overlooking. Both JR and Councillor Whitcroft said this was a detailed matter which would be addressed at a much later stage in the planning process. Councillor Whitcroft requested sight of the questionnaire prior to it being sent out. Residents asked if the questionnaire could be sent directly to them.	HM
7.	JR explained that the Vision, and other work, would be used to support the emerging Core Strategy and the preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document for Deepcut. It was stressed that it was very important to get an up-to-date planning policy framework in place so that this could be used to guide any subsequent planning application that was received.	
8.	Residents raised the possibility of the Council having a webpage relating to Deepcut with the survey on it. HM indicated this was already being looked at and it was hoped that a dedicated Deepcut webpage would be available on the Surrey Heath website in the next few weeks.	HM
9.	The potential image problems associated with the Deepcut name and the possibility of the new settlement adopting a new name was raised. Residents were firmly of the opinion that this should not happen and that the Deepcut name should be retained.	
10.	The need for an icon was raised by HM. Residents wished to see the lock gates retained as the image/symbol for the new development/settlement.	
	Residents expressed concern about the affordable housing approach that had been taken at Dettingen Park. It was asked if the affordable housing in any new development could be	

	pepper-potted through the site, rather than being concentrated in one or 2 places.	
	Residents asked if it was possible for the Army to open up the site for members of the Residents Group and other Stakeholders to visit. Officers agreed that this was a good idea. No decision was made as to how to take this forward.	