

Wednesday 10th September at 6.30pm
Venue: Ivybridge Town Hall

Steve Hitch, in the Chair, welcomed all to the meeting and invited each person to introduce themselves.

Apologies were received from Steven Vincent. Lee Rider arrived at 7pm. Cllr Croad did not attend. Cllrs Holway and Hosking left at 7.15pm.

Constitution – Mission statement to be amended and circulated for further comments. Otherwise rest of document agreed.

Martin Sibley declared an interest as a resident of Filham cottages as his garden was potentially in the development area.

James Doxford of South Hams District Council set the scene, outlining the progress on “Our Plan” and explaining how work already done for Ivybridge might be used to inform the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Lee Bray gave a presentation (copy attached) and suggested links to other plans and background information which members of the group might find informative.

During questions the concepts of aspirational v realistic visions were considered and whilst those present agreed that deliverability was important that it shouldn't prevent people from aiming high in terms of ambitions for the town – especially in relation to the Town Centre.

Lesley Hughes advised that in addition to retaining Lee Bray using DCLG money held by South Hams District Council for the town (approx. £16,000 in total as some had been used for the Retail and Leisure Study) that Jo Widdecombe of Planning Aid was available to offer help up to March 2015 and had given her apologies for being unable to attend this evening.

James Doxford offered to email the link for the Retail and Leisure Study for group members to see.

Before looking at holding three topic based workshops the group believed that a facilitated session to clarify the issues for the town and where the plan should focus its efforts, was vital and Jo Widdecombe would be asked to assist.

A question was asked about the Parish boundary issue as the “eastern extension” was part of Ugborough Parish but included within the Ivybridge Neighbourhood Plan area. It was noted that governance issues were outside the remit of the group but that discussions would be continuing separately between Ivybridge and Ugborough Parishes about the designation of that area in the long term.

As the plan was looking to 2031 the view was that less focus should be placed on the “eastern area extension”, as the development proposals were well developed with little scope for the plan to influence those, so the Town Centre (where the Town Team had already undertaken additional work to that of the Princes Foundation) would potentially be explored in more depth to see how the planning process could create a more vibrant centre, contributing to the needs identified by the community through the various consultation exercises.

Steve Hitch then invited nominations for the role of Chairman as he had agreed to chair this first meeting but not on an ongoing basis. Steve was re-nominated and as at this stage no one else was willing to take the chair, he was re-elected unopposed, with the proviso that if others did feel able to take the chair in the future that they would put their names forward.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm