

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm**  
**Venue: Ivybridge Town Hall**

Steve Hitch, in the Chair, welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies from Cllr Saltern, Cllr Mrs Pringle, Cllr Croad, Jonathan Bell and Tim Offer (the latter had indicated he would be late arriving).

In attendance were Cllr Khong, Cllr Mrs Cuthbert, Cllr Hosking, Cllr Holway, Bruce Robinson, Lee Rider, Martin Sibley, James Doxford (SHDC), Lee Bray (Neighbourhood Plan consultant) and Lesley Hughes (Ivybridge TC)

Constitution – It was agreed that the constitution be changed to incorporate the Vision and that following the resignation of Steven Vincent from the group that Hannah Whiting (a resident studying the community of Ivybridge for her degree at Plymouth University) be included as a member of the group.

It was agreed to use the Project Plan as circulated by Planning Aid following the workshop and LH would keep this updated as appropriate.

LH advised that the updated communication engagement strategy would be adopted by the Town Council on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December and this could then be used by the Neighbourhood Plan group. She offered a copy to the group if anyone wanted to look at it and review the contents from the groups' perspective.

Lee Bray then took the group through the notes he had made following the meeting last week between himself and LH to assess evidence, gaps, ideas for focus groups and other considerations (copies were circulated and are attached to these notes). Lee Bray had also summarised the evidence base and that too is attached with hyperlinks to the source.

During the discussion the opportunity to flag up a couple of important matters were taken. One dealt with the proposed link road south of the A38 (out of Parish) and how neighbouring Parishes should be engaged with the process. James confirmed that this link would need to be considered as part of the Our Plan process.

Lee Bray confirmed that the Plan couldn't include a policy about the road because it was in Ugborough and outside the plan boundary but the idea of a Memorandum of Understanding was considered, as Ugborough representatives fully appreciated the need to relieve pressure on Western Road (with its air quality concerns) and also were conscious of through traffic at Bittaford and Wrangaton. Cllr Hoskings advised that he was trying to achieve a feasibility study of the eastern area access onto the A38 undertaken by Devon County. Questions were asked about potential funding and the view of the Highways Agency as they were on record as stating no new junctions onto the A38.

Lee Bray identified a dearth of evidence in relation to highways issues and it would be important to engage with Devon County Council in respect of this deficiency and also to check the long term view of the Highways Agency. Even if an eastern access were assessed as being a long term ambition, supported by the relevant agencies it was unlikely that it would happen any sooner than 10 years hence, but if this were to be considered then land in the short term would need to be protected from development otherwise the opportunity for the access would be lost entirely.

In terms of the relationship with Our Plan James Doxford gave an update on the potential timeframe which had slipped slightly with a report being presented to SHDC Executive in December regarding a new timetable as more work with Plymouth was needed. He did advise that the land availability assessments undertaken had identified more land availability in the rural villages than in the towns, where for the largest two communities there were longstanding infrastructure issues which had to be addressed. Over the period to early summer work would continue with possible development for communities being outlined at that stage.

Continuing through the list it was agreed that the focus group discussion would continue after the presentation which Lee was going to do as well as the template for the focus groups.

Lee suggested it could be helpful if he did a skeleton of the plan as he believed that there was enough information available for a basic outline which could inform the work of the focus groups – which could be amended to reflect developments and other priorities identified by the groups.

In respect of sustainability Lee advised that a full appraisal is not a requirement but James Doxford recommended that the model from SHDC should be used. A discussion on sustainability, how it would be assessed and the work involved ensued.

In response to the need for a screening opinion as to whether an SEA is required James Doxford needed some more information before an opinion could be given and he queried whether (if one were needed) that the work had to be done by the District.

Lee emphasised the importance of finding people either within the group or local organisations supportive of the Ivybridge plan, to provide DTP and mapping. Ideally give that some thought as to who could assist at this early stage.

The presentation on focus group proposals was given by Lee (copy of slides attached)

It was agreed that the two groups would be 1) Regeneration and Investment and 2) Healthy, creative and sustainable lifestyles. It was believed that the importance of the creative sector to Ivybridge should be reflected in the groups and the membership. The links with the sports group should be maintained via the members of the steering group but a question in relation to the work of that group in identifying land/facilities flagged up the fact that most of the groups were actually based outside the Ivybridge Plan area and, once again, how any support for out of plan developments could be reflected in policies for Ivybridge.

Publicising the work of the groups, engaging the public and neighbouring Parishes were again raised and Cllr Holway offered to act as a link with Ermington Parish Council just to keep them informed of progress. A wider meeting which invited representatives from those interested, eg Harford, would be considered in due course.

It was decided that the first meeting of the focus groups couldn't be until the New Year, to give time for membership to be considered so Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January was proposed.

LH would speak to the Chairman about possible invitees and Steering Group members were invited to submit names to LH. Group members advised which group they would wish to sit on and Planning Aid would be asked to facilitate. LH would email in due course with more information.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.