

CG gave a presentation to PTC to request more support financially, also with admin and communication – same to be done for TTC. Sites which have come forward: 2 large ones Co-op/St Modwens and some interesting smaller ones. Potentially 255 homes plus. The ‘Call for Sites’ deadline passed and applications had been received - those submitted have been briefly reviewed and the Group were generally pleased with the results.

Draft Environmental Scoping Report (being written by NA) would be submitted to TD for review.

Business presentation on 10th October organised by PTC, but only 3 businesses had attended. On 16th October a similar presentation given to Peacehaven Chamber of Commerce where business questionnaires had been distributed but very few were returned. VC started a database with 300 businesses but needed help to manage it. Businesses are not being properly involved at this time.

Peacehaven Focus Group read a statement agreed at an Extraordinary Meeting in October. Main points of the statement were:

- The business presentation by PTC had not been successful and the minutes from CL didn’t reflect the disappointing attendance especially from Town Councillors who should have been supporting the event.
- Providing additional housing: the Steering Group were in a difficult situation and had not been involved by PTC and the Co-op in discussions concerning the Meridian site.
- There were insufficient resources for the development of a NDP and this was leading to lack of engagement with the wider community.

If the situation continued then the Focus Group may make the decision to leave the Steering Group.

There was agreement about a lack of resources and involvement – Chairman CG explained that skilled people were needed but that wasn’t possible as both PTC and TTC said that they did not have staffing capacity to allow officers additional time to work on NDP. And whilst LDC had a duty to support and advise, they couldn’t work on anything, they could only act as a conduit for review.

The Environmental Group recommended that SEA scoping report be done urgently because of the move to redevelop the Meridian site. NA agreed to send TD a draft now that the Call for Sites had ended in order that the scoping option report could be submitted formally before Xmas.

Agreed that organising public meetings and talks is a good idea for residents to discuss issues. Chairman CG to produce No 3 Flyer for distribution to update people.

J Dowty of O'Neill Homer, had asked for the Steering Group's (SG) opinion on two questions:

1. Does the SG still want to progress policy for Meridian area, what are the groups ambitions and broad objectives?
2. Does the SG want to pass the allocation of sites back to LDC?

Following discussion the group confirmed that they do wish to continue developing policies for the Meridian Site following their original ambition of creating a better quality shopping centre, providing a range of retail outlets and associated services and linking the centre to the wider area through better connections and high quality public space and facilities. The group also confirmed that at this stage they did want to continue allocating sites and that a more descriptive brief should be established for the consultants so that they have clearer idea of what the group wanted to achieve, to be undertaken after Xmas break allowing everyone further time to consider issues.