Monday 16th September 2pm at 1 Beaudesert Park

Present: Simon MacDonald (Lead), Sandy McCaskie (JPC Lead), Geoff Norman, Simon Woods, Jonathan Dovey

Apologies: None

Conflicts of Interest: None

Proceedings:

Initial discussion of the urgency of proceeding and that top-down decisions from SDC etc will affect what we are planning. It was noted that the disparity of the rich and poor in our community was not addressed anywhere in the original Local Plan. There is a disconnect between housing need, economy and infrastructure. We should be mindful of economic plans further afield e.g. Arden Cross, Redditch etc. as they will affect Henley.

Initial discussion of the economy vision and policy is the local plan. It was felt that it was too defensive with no actual vision. It was felt that we needed more data about Henley – employment breakdown, trends, demographics, use of public transport and so on.

**[GN to contact ‘Yourlocale’ to see if this data exists and can be obtained.]**

It was decided that we needed information from local businesses / employers. A series of questions should be put to some of these so that we can understand what businesses are doing, how hey are doing, what is preventing them expand and so on. Mention that there is a lack of provision for smaller businesses in units.

**[SM to circulate types of questions for discussion and agreement].**

Businesses identified with person to contact them in (brackets): MPA (Sandy), Johnsons (SM), Adams (SW), Mercia Assets (SM), Co-op/One stop (SW), St Francis Group (GN), Depotnet Ltd (SM), schools (JD).

It was also decided that a range of hospitality businesses should be contacted

**[Sandy to come up with the range of questions]**

It was felt that underrepresented groups including younger people needed to have a voice and this could be done via contacting parents via the primary schools and via interaction with the Co-op.

**[SW to contact Co-op to see if they can help and parents from the schools]**

Tourism was mentioned and we needed to know how tourism is doing, who is visiting and where they are coming from.

**[JD to obtain tourism data from the Heritage Centre & Guildhall]**

We need to find out all the old statistics from the last local plan.

It was recognised that Ray Chamberlain (Forward Group) as a significant land and business owner in Henley has plans/intentions in economic terms. The group agreed that we should be aware of them and understand how they may fit with the wider economic vision and strategic objectives that are ultimately agreed.

Next meeting: Monday 7th October 2pm at 1 Beaudesert Park