

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KIG JOINT PARISHES GROUP
Held on 27th January 2009 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was chaired by Richard Jacques - TPC

1. Apologies

Richard Jacques gave the apologies received from group members.

2. JPG Update.

Richard Jacques informed the meeting that he and John Horne had attended a meeting with Alison Broom and Rob Jarman. He stated that there had been a change in the applicant's planners and they were now being represented by Gerald Eve and not RPS.

It was confirmed that the re-consultation deadline was 6th February 2009. He spoke of the newsletter circulated to each parish for distribution to their electorate in order to encourage as many objection letters as possible.

Richard Jacques informed all that the planning hearing was unlikely to take place before April 2009. He stated that the JPG need to be focused and he suggested that the group meets at two weekly intervals at this time to focus on the planning hearing and to get through it effectively.

The additional details of the planning application were discussed, Richard Jacques stated that it was disappointing that the details did not clarify matters further, he spoke regarding the employment report and the traffic movements for the development. He stated that he did not feel that the additional details decreased the level of argument of the JPG.

John Horne reported on a meeting held between Alison Broom, Rob Jarman, the Highways Agency, KCC Highways and Gerald Eve regarding Junction 8. He stated that MBC and KCC would be looking at traffic modelling options taking into account the LDF Core Strategy.

He reported that the next meeting between AXA and MBC would take place on 20th March 2009.

Larry Mulheirn spoke of the Highways Agency and he asked if their position was any clearer.

John Horne stated that the Highways Agency still had questions and the queries raised at the previous meeting still remained.

He stated that MBC could hold a planning meeting whenever, and should the applicant appeal against non-determination then MBC are still able to hold a meeting, this would be an evidential base.

Richard Jacques informed members that John Horne had been trying to get Hugh Robertson to a group meeting to speak on this matter.

John Horne stated that if the Highways Agency lifted the Article 14 Direction, then MBC as a planning authority, would still have to consider the information received to ensure that the objectives could be met. He spoke further regarding the information requested by the Highways Agency.

Larry Mulheirn asked about the status of the LDF. John Horne confirmed that this had been put on the back burner, but in considering all of the arguments, MBC would have to make the assumptions regarding the LDF requirements.

Alan Bradshaw spoke regarding the sites identified in the LDF and stated that the Growth Point Status was still viable

Richard Jacques stated that as a result of the growth point status and LDF, MBC had now convinced the Highways Agency and the applicant that the LDF would be progressed.

June Harrison spoke regarding the housing allocation for the Borough.

Jeff Licence spoke regarding problems in viewing the additional planning documentation at the Borough Council Offices; he stated that their procedure was totally inadequate.

Richard Jacques stated that the original details remained unchanged and the additional details sought to mitigate and clarify the position for Maidstone. He asked the three Ward Councillors to take this concern up with MBC.

Jeff Licence confirmed that Bearsted Parish Council had taken this matter up with the Chief Executive of MBC.

3. MBC Planning Hearing.

Richard Jacques spoke regarding the Borough Council's Planning Committee Hearing; he reminded the meeting that three areas were being worked on by groups, these covered Environment, Transport and Business.

He asked members undertaking these reports to email these to the Clerk for circulation to the group for comments before the next KIG JPG meeting.

He spoke regarding the JPG's relationship with MBC and KCC and the JPG part in the planning hearing, he stated that the JPG would raise objections from the local view at the hearing.

This was discussed further by the group and members discussed the lack of links with motorways of the seas and the lack of evidence of a business plan showing these details.

John Horne spoke of the two stages anticipated for the application, the first being the planning hearing and second the likely Inspectors Hearing.

He stated that there needed to be a greater collaboration with MBC and KCC for stage two and the JPG would need to have access to more evidence.

The importance of Parish Plans and Village Design Statements were discussed and John Horne stated that these could be used as supporting evidence at a public enquiry.

The procedure for the planning hearing was discussed, Richard Jacques reported that the JPG would have 30 minutes to speak at the hearing and he suggested that the representations from the group should be concise, bullet points and hard hitting.

Tom Hoy spoke further regarding the planning hearing process; he suggested that a power point presentation might assist with the JPG's presentation.

John Horne suggested that the group invited Neil Harris from MBC to the next JPG meeting to discuss the planning hearing process. This was agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to invite Neil Harris to next meeting.

It was agreed that the group should meeting in two weeks to firm up the details for the planning hearing, Richard Jacques summarised the need for discussions during this evening.

4. Other Items.

John Horne informed members that Norman King and Mike Perring had offered to arrange a walk of the site for the JPG in the future. This was noted by all present.

5. Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next meeting was set for Wednesday 11th February 2009 @ 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm