

Hayling Island Infrastructure Group

27 June 2017 13:00-15:00

Hayling Golf Club, Links Lane, Hayling Island, PO11 0BX

Minutes of Meeting

Present:

Community representatives: Anne Skennerton (HIRA), David Parham (Save Our Island), Heather Parham (Save Our Island), Rosie Law (Hayling resident), Derek Bowerman (Chair of NEHRA), Anthony Higham (HIRA)

HBC representatives: David Hayward (Planning Policy Manager), Andrew Biltcliffe (Head of Planning), Linda Jewell (Planning Consultant), Stuart Wood (Civil Engineering & Landscape Manager), Louise Berridge (Projects Engineer), Steve Mountain (Special Projects Engineer)

Councillors and county councillors: Cllr Michael Wilson (Chair of meeting), Cllr Leah Turner; Cllr Tim Pike; Cllr John Perry and Cllr Andrew Lenaghan, Cllr Lance Quantrill

Apologies

Mike Owens (Hayling Informer), Chris Lyon (Rook Farm Management Company), Cllr Joanne Thomas, Mark Stratton (ESCP), Holly Drury (HCC), Graham Wright (HCC), Caroline Richardson (Senior Transport Planner), Cllr Clare Satchwell, Phil Miles (Rook Farm Management Company), Paul Millman (NEHRA), Ian Hoult (Head of Emergency Planning), and David Pattenden (Secretary of LRA)

1. Introductions

Cllr Wilson began by suggesting that items are covered within 1 hour 30 so that 30 minutes is left for AOB.

2. Notes of the last meeting and matters arising

The notes from the last meeting were comprehensive and were agreed.
Dave Parham and Cllr Perry pointed out that the meeting was being recorded.

3. Local Plan Update

David Hayward confirmed that the Draft Local Plan would be considered by an Extraordinary meeting of the Cabinet on 18th December 2017 due to delays with the Transport Assessment which would be discussed under item 4. Subject to Cabinet approval, there would be a six week consultation, but this will begin in January 2018. The proposed date for adoption remains June 2019. David Parham asked whether the new date would coincide with Hayling Island's infrastructure evaluation being completed; David Hayward confirmed that the draft plan will refer to the infrastructure on the island, however it was not possible to confirm what would be said at this point as the evidence base is not yet complete.

David Parham pointed out that he is still yet to see a response from HCC regarding the most significant item of the plan and that it is unacceptable. Cllr Wilson confirmed that the modelling issues have caused a delay, and that unfortunately HCC were unable to attend the meeting.

Andrew Biltcliffe added that the timeline is down to HBC to determine and conversations with the providers recently have been made clear that the October date couldn't be met. David Parham also commented regarding the lack of information from service providers. David Hayward assured the group that meetings are taking place with HCC and other service providers and a lot of work is going on regarding the Transport Assessment.

4. Results of the 'Do Nothing' TA run

Stuart Wood provided an update on the Borough Wide Transport Assessment.

Cllr Wilson highlighted disappointment that HCC did not attend, although acknowledging that they may not have been able to add any considerable level of detail. Stuart Wood added that HCC will only be able to tell us that work is in progress at this time; they will attend future meetings but they may not be able to attend until September when that information is in place. They should then be more prepared for the questions asked.

David Parham asked whether holiday traffic was included in the traffic counts on/off the island, and said that in the first meeting it was agreed that holiday traffic would be included. Stuart Wood confirmed that holiday traffic is not included as such because they cannot model the 'peak' hot summer days but monthly figures would include most holiday traffic due to visitors staying at holiday camps on the island for 12 months of the year. Anthony Higham asked what assumptions had been made regarding housing figures. Stuart confirmed that housing figures had been given to Systra. David Hayward added that housing figures have been given on a worst case scenario up to 2036.

Cllr Perry suggested that it would be useful to have written answers to the questions we have within 10 days. Cllr Wilson expressed concern that the group will only end up receiving generic answers without the modelling information but suggested that members produce a list of questions to be sent to Cllr Wilson, which will be passed on to HCC.

ACTION: all to send Cllr Wilson any outstanding questions for HCC Highways.

Stuart Wood replied to this by stating that with the day to day traffic - the peaks from May-June will be accommodated but the 30 odd 'peak' summer days throughout the year cannot be modelled alone.

Anthony Higham commented on the possibility of being able to put the odd peak days into the model and that he believes it is possible.

David Hayward reminded members that the TA is looking at the whole network, so it's not just about what HBC are proposing in Havant, it's about development proposed across the Solent and what impact it has on the network as a whole - it is important to look at it collectively.

Stuart Wood highlighted that Systra has been looking at a borough wide model for transport until 2036 (a baseline model) looking at development excluding HBC which gives a baseline. The 'Do Minimum' scenario is including all of what is planning to be built (worst case scenario) within the borough. That model then flags up a number of junctions – this has now taken place. A meeting took place yesterday with HCC and Systra to look at parts of the network where traffic builds up, and recognising severe/significant junctions. Pell Frischmann is looking at mitigation at those junctions/areas to put into the model to see whether and how the congestion issues can be solved.

There have been additional traffic and travel time counts on Hayling Island using Bluetooth – these have been taken down now but were up for 2 weeks – in August they will be put back for another 2 weeks and after that permanent counters will then be installed. Come September there will be a lot more information available. Stuart then went on to introduce Louise Berridge who has recently started at HBC as a Projects Engineer – concentrating on Hayling Island mitigation.

Cllr Wilson requested that Stuart clarifies the meaning of 'Do Nothing/Minimum Baseline' and 'Do Something' to avoid confusion. Stuart Wood confirmed that the baseline is taking what HBC predict to be the traffic journeys or volumes up to 2036 but with no development in the borough.

Andrew Biltcliffe confirmed that it would be with the existing Local Plan allocations – everything in the Core Strategy Allocations Plan. The next step would be to add in the sites emerging from the Local Plan process to see what that does, and then to look at mitigation.

Pell Frischmann is looking at the borough wide mitigation. HCC are working closely with HBC, HBC are the first to try this 2015 transport model which has caused delays due to glitches in the new model.

Cllr Wilson added that HBC opted for the 2015 model rather than the 2012 model, so that the figures are as accurate as they can be.

Anne Skennerton said that moving forward, once mitigation is in place, and the threshold is reached, is there a point where planning will say that it's unfeasible to have a greater density of population because people will be unable to travel to work let alone anywhere else? Andrew Biltcliffe confirmed that this is what HBC is trying to prevent with the model, there are thresholds and all aspects are being looked at.

Anthony Higham added that the Department of Transport has levels of congestion that run from 1-5 (5 being the worst); Hayling Island is currently at 3-4.

Stuart Wood stated that HBC are looking at what is deliverable and what delays there may be. Stuart also clarified that it is HBC's Local Plan although HCC are working alongside HBC on the project.

Jim Palmer suggested that we are told what parameters and assumptions are put in to the model to understand them in advance. Cllr Wilson agreed that it would be right to publish the parameters and that we could ask for this information alongside an explanation in advance.

Rosie Law made a comment about HCC not doing as much work as HBC because HBC are doing so well. Stuart Wood stated that this is because it is HBC's Local Plan and it's HBC's job to design the plan, not HCCs.

There was a discussion on the rebuffering of planning applications on the basis that HBC do not have an infrastructure plan in place, Andrew Biltcliffe stated that the Infrastructure Delivery Plan has been given a very high level of priority and the work is progressing in more detail than perhaps originally envisaged. HBC have refused the Rook Farm planning application partly due to the fact that the work had not yet concluded.

Cllr Wilson acknowledged the frustration but pointed out that he isn't aware of other authorities going through the same process of having an innovative group like this to look at issues. This group helps to inform the process.

David Hayward reminded members of the Rook Farm application – no appeal has been received.

5. SUDS and surface water drainage

Steve Mountain gave a verbal presentation on SUDS and surface water drainage.

Developers are required to look at and provide mitigation for sustainable drainage and ways in which SUDS can be managed. The development's residents will pay a fee through to the management company to maintain the area. During construction the local authority takes a bond. This gives the council a means by which if ever the developer abandoned the site, the Council can do emergency works to take the site back to greenfield - back to how it was as if development never happened.

There are insurances in place in case there are any problems with management company arrangements. Steve confirmed that there have been no instances that he is aware of. A

good example of a state of the art system is based at Waterlooville MDA and is managed by a management company.

David Parham raised concerns about the maintenance and quality of water after speaking with Southern Water who has said that they don't test the quality of the surface water that drains in to the harbours – the Environment Agency would be responsible for this but they are not a service provider under HBC's current process. David also raised concerns about management companies going bankrupt.

Steve suggested members take a look at the [Environment Agency's 'Living On The Edge' document](#). There's a good breakdown of what the EA does and their responsibilities. Steve stated that if SUDS are designed and constructed properly, they improve water quality, flow and biodiversity. There are lots of different variations of SUDS, such as nice looking ponds but SUDs are still engineering features. Occasionally, the fact that SUDs improve biodiversity can affect the operation of the system as an engineering feature.

Steve added that drainage issues and maintenance stops with the landowner; common parts (private areas), open spaces, ditches, SUDs are all managed by management companies. David Parham suggested that there's some kind of legal requirement in place to pay management companies.

Anne Skennerton asked about maintenance and what to expect – Steve pointed out that every site is different, some sites are even hidden under parking areas – block paving as an example. There are structures under ponds; there are ditches, rivers and even waterbutts as SUDS. In terms of maintaining ponds it is determined in the schedule agreed with the management company like regular grass cuts, checks on valves etc. - some ponds have structures underneath.

Rosie Law commented on biodiversity on Hayling Island and how ecosystems could be changing. Steve confirmed that he sees environmental studies on planning applications that come to him through the consultation process.

Cllr Wilson stated that all SUDS should work for all developments.

Steve added that SUDS will not always be 'nice looking' systems and as a very last resort, water will be discharged to external pipe systems such as Southern Water. Steve confirmed that there are some types of vegetation that are put in to SUDS, which are designed to strip out and capture oil for example, to help with targeting the risk of contamination.

Anne Skennerton asked whether HBC are aware of Chichester Harbour Conservancy's concerns about SUDs on the eastern coast, Steve confirmed that he is aware of correspondence relating to this but they have not written to HBC specifically.

David Parham spoke about a recent talk with Southern Water who admitted that they had problems with drainage and they were allowing raw sewage to be leaked at Tournbury. David asked what measures were in place to prevent sewage getting into SUDS. Steve

highlighted that as there is no abstraction on Hayling Island, this is sometimes allowed by Southern Water. However there are also issues with foul water entering the surface water system. This often happens when white goods discharge into the surface water system. Southern Water have a disconnection and repair programme in place to address this.

Steve went on to confirm that HBC's Environmental Health have a mosquito spraying programme in place and have had this in place for many years. HBC do not cover private land.

6. IDP progress

Linda Jewel gave an update on the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Linda recently met with the South Central Ambulance Service – there's no ambulance station on Hayling Island, there used to be a stand by location at the beach but they do not use it anymore. There is a strong network of First Responders on the island; they do have equipment such as defibrillators. Firefighters are also trained to respond, and there's a Fire Station on the island. The Fire Service confirmed that they are more than happy for ambulance staff to be stationed/have rest breaks at the fire station. Ambulance staff do spend a lot of time dropping patients off at hospitals when they get there, but do not seem to have any issues with traffic when travelling on/off the island.

There's a 'Save a Life' app for smart phones which was set up by South Central Ambulance Services that launched last autumn, which shows locations of defibrillators on the island (12 in total). The app will tell you how to use the machines too.

It can take up to 4 years to fully train a paramedic, and then 1 year on the road. As a result, the fact that funding to reflect increases in population is applied retroactively is a concern.

An update on water supply - Portsmouth Water pressure is monitored at a location by the Langstone Sailing Club. They stated that if more water is needed, they simply open a valve.

Regarding water pressure, there have been complaints about water pressure on the island but Portsmouth Water's pressure is at 2 bar. The statutory minimum is 1 bar (equivalent to 10m per head). Portsmouth Water have been unable to find any instances of water pressure falling under the statutory minimum.

Anne Skennerton pointed out that the members have not had a response from the CCG's action noted at the last meeting. Linda confirmed that she had not heard from the CCG regarding GPs per head of population at the Borough's surgeries.

Cllr Pike pointed out that CCG have figures on their website.

Steve Mountain pointed out that Hayling has a high proportion of concessions, and suggested that residents occasionally pay for their bus journeys. Because when there are fewer paying passengers, the fare becomes more expensive.

7. Date of next meeting and any other business

David Parham expressed concerns about the lack of communication between HBC, HCC and the group. There seems to be no communication outside of the meetings, and emails sent to HBC are not acknowledged, let alone responded to. David also suggested that papers/presentations are sent out prior to meetings so that the group can get an understanding of what is going on beforehand. David Hayward set out that there was no problem with this, although as this is often ongoing work then it is not always possible.

David suggested that the next agenda includes an item on the infrastructure plan and that it is presented to the group. Cllr Wilson acknowledged the need to get the communication right.

David Hayward stated that he does not usually acknowledge emails, and that it hasn't always been clear whether a response was required.

David Parham expressed concerns regarding items on agendas being missed because of the lack of time, and that the group needs to allow time for AOB for discussions and debates.

Cllr Pike made a comment about collaborative working and that it would be good to know the projected housing figures, and quantitative data on the infrastructure items beforehand rather than to just hear the answers.

David also spoke about Southern Water not being able to answer questions on drainage capacities and suggested a proformer to HCC and SW so that they can answer questions. Andrew Biltcliffe confirmed that HBC do not tend to get this information until a planning application comes in. Southern Water does not act until they receive notification of a planning application and do not look at connection to the network often until planning permission. David Hayward added that this is through the consultation process and that SW are not generally concerned about proposed development in Local Plans as long as something similar to "the development connects at the nearest point of capacity" is said in the Local Plan.

David Parham stated that he'd like the group to see these service provider's responses. Cllr Wilson confirmed that emergency planning will be on the next agenda and asked David Parham to put forward any additional agenda items. David Parham suggested that we have a meeting on the 'Hayling Island Infrastructure plan' – to which Linda responded by reiterating that the IDP covers the whole borough and that Hayling Island gets mentioned under each topic throughout. There's no separate Hayling Island infrastructure plan.

Cllr Wilson also confirmed that there cannot be a separate Hayling Island plan; Hayling will be incorporated in to the overall plan.

8. Close