



**Minutes of Committee meeting held at the Hare & Hounds
on Tuesday 24 April 2018**

Present: Tony Bartlett, Bryan Biggs, Fred Dunkerley, Bryan Hall (items 1 & 4), Doug Harman, Desmond Henley, John Hobbs and David Porter.
Apologies were received from Andy Peddle and Evan Thomas.

Prior to the formal meeting, the committee received a presentation on the “**Rural Means Rural**” campaign by Linda Harman:

Ms Harman said that “Rural Means Rural” (RMR) was a community campaign group founded in November 2017, following a meeting called by borough councillor Jane Martin to explore ways of supporting her constituents in the face of numerous planning applications for developments. The result was to aim to develop a “Landscape Protection Policy” (LPP), which would address the cumulative effect of planning applications, which at present are each considered in isolation.

The objective was to have such a Policy included in the Ashford Local Plan and the long-term aspiration was to have it included in the National Planning Policy Framework. The LPP would consider the cumulative effects of development, eg by requiring a cumulative impact assessment of all new planning applications. RMR would be using a paid professional Planning Consultant to represent them in lobbying for the LPP to be adopted.

The movement was based in Aldington, which had seen development increase the size of the village by 70% in 10 years (168 dwellings against a planned 40) and was now receiving support from many other villages and communities. Ms Harman requested support by signing on to the RMR website and signing their petition.

TB suggested that RMR should be talking to the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC). RMR was already in touch with the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE).

Following the presentation, it was agreed that the SLRA would support the campaign in principle and would write to members, encouraging them to support RMR via their website.

ACTION DP

Item 1: Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2018

i. Approval

The minutes were agreed.

ii. Matters Arising

DP said that, before looking into setting up new traffic surveys, it might be worth analysing the recent data from such surveys carried out in connection with planning applications for land at Lenacre Hall Farm and the former Sandpit. This was agreed. There were no other matters arising which were not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

Item 2: Review of AGM, 20 March 2018

It was agreed that the AGM had been a well-attended, successful event. Significant contributions had been made by county and parish councillors. Several positive emails had been received from members following the event.

Item 3: Planning Issues

i. Planning applications and outcomes

It was noted that SLRA responses had been submitted on the new planning application for 21 dwellings at Lenacre Hall Farm (LHF) and on the proposed extension of the Waterbrook lorry park. Several members had commented favourably on the LHF submission. It was also noted that an application had been made for extensions at 120 Sandyhurst Lane, and consent had been granted for an extension at 56a Sandyhurst Lane and a single garage at 1 Potters Close.

ii. Ashford Local Plan to 2030

The public examination of the submission Plan was now in progress, led by two officers from the Planning Inspectorate. SLRA representatives would be present for the sessions on Eureka Park (S20) on 16 May and the A20 Corridor (including Land East of Hothfield Mill (S47)) on 17 May.

ACTION TB/DP

Item 4: Boughton Aluph & Eastwell Residents' Association/Neighbourhood Plan

BH said that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had met the previous day, together with a Planning Consultant. They identified three areas needing further information from third parties. Some adjustments to the main documentation were also required. The consultant will then prepare the draft Plan which will go out for review, hopefully by the end of May. There will follow a six week period of consultation, including public exhibitions. The Plan will then be revised and, after submission to the Local Authority and independent examination, issued for a referendum.

Item 5: Traffic issues

Lorry parking at Potters Corner: Cllr Drury had provided an update at the AGM and at the Joint Transportation Board meeting on 13 March. The trial overnight ban appeared to be working well. An SLRA member had recently complained that some lorries appeared to be ignoring the ban. **TB** said that he had checked via Westwell Parish Council and that the scheme was still working well. Lorries were often not clamped until fairly late in the evening and officers awaited the driver to wake in the morning before collecting the release fee.

Traffic speed: **DHa** said that he thought that the speed of some vehicles in Sandyhurst Lane was much too fast, endangering pedestrians and dog-walkers such as himself. He had recently reported two dangerous incidents and agreed to keep a diary of such incidents.

ACTION DHa

Item 6: Local bus services

DP said that KCC had now reduced the planned savings in bus subsidies and that there will be no cuts in subsidy to bus services in the Ashford area in the coming year. KCC was now claiming to be undertaking a "big conversation" with parish councils and communities to explore how bus services, in particular for school children and elderly residents in rural communities could be restructured to save money whilst providing a good service. However, committee members were not aware that any approaches had yet been made locally.

Item 7: Telephone kiosk

DP said that Ashford Borough Council (ABC) had now agreed that the telephone kiosk located at the junction of Lenacre Street and Sandyhurst Lane lies within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Planning regulations prohibit any advertising in such kiosks and ABC had now advised BT. All the advertisements had now been removed.

Item 8: Defibrillator

Kent Fire & Rescue Service have around 73 defibrillators that they wish to donate to Community groups, charities etc. The units will be free but given on the understanding that from handover maintenance and responsibility for the units stays with the successful bidders. It was agreed that the SLRA would submit an application for one of these defibrillators. It should be sited so that there was a reasonably even distribution of units. It was known that there was one located at Sandyacres and one at Westwell village hall. It was agreed to write to the Golf Club to ask whether they already had a defibrillator; if not a possible site would be in Sandyhurst Lane, near the entrance to the Golf Club. **ACTION DP**

Item 9: Consultations

The Government is currently consulting on the draft revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It was agreed that the SLRA would respond to the section dealing with ancient woodland, supporting the proposed increased protection. **ACTION DP**

Item 10: Membership

DP said that there were now 149 members, representing 43% of the catchment area. Since the previous committee meeting, there had been a net gain of 13 members (12 new, 4 re-joined, 3 moved away). There were 24 cash subscriptions due; these members had been emailed or advised via the News Update. There were also still a few (6) email members who had yet to give written consent for their data to be held by the SLRA after 25 May. **ACTION DP**

Item 11: Treasurer's report

The Treasurer was not present. **DP** said that the bank balance stood at £2,757.31. Recent expenditure had included the AGM (£232.77) and the annual website hosting charge (£44.98).

Item 12: Neighbourhood Watch

The latest database, containing numerous updates, had been issued.

Item 13: Other business

DHe drew attention to a pothole adjacent to a drain gully in Sandyhurst Lane, near the junction with Hoads Wood Gardens. **DP** agreed to report it to KCC. **ACTION DP**

TB said that the final edition of Kennington News was now on the website of Kennington Community Forum (KCF). It would not be circulated in hard copy. He asked **DP** to email this information to SLRA members within the KCF area. **ACTION DP**

Item 14: Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 17 July 2018. **ACTION DP**