# Robertsbridge Enterprise Group

# Minutes of meeting held on 07 January 2015, 19:30 at The Robertsbridge Club

**Present:** Stephen Hardy, Chairman (SH)
Sue Prochak, RDC (SP)
Dicky Clymo (DC)
Tamara Strapp (TS)
Kristina Wright (KW)
John Lomas (JL)
Tom Hoad (TH)
Martin Gordon (MG)
Emma Ainslie (EA)
Alex Ainslie (AA)

**Apologies:** David Felton

**Minutes:** the minutes of the previous meetings were agreed.

**Neighbourhood Plan**

**SH:** once a NP is approved it takes precedence over everything *except* the total number of houses to be built during the Plan period. It gives very wide powers over many planning matters.

**DC:** with a NP in force, the Parish gets 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) instead of 15%. Rother are now doing the NP. There is a meeting on Saturday organised by the PC. The difficulty is finding enough PC members to produce the NP.
**SP:** the planning rules have changed again – brownfield sites can now be used for housing, but the NP could specify employment as a priority. The NP needs to examine **all** infrastructure. Grants are available to produce the NP.

**TS** to produce a strategy and potential questions.

**Rother Local Plan**

**SP:** the core strategy has been approved, but sites have not yet been finalised – it is not yet out for consultation.

**DC:** we have to find somewhere for 155 houses!

**Planning applications**

Grove Farm

**SH:** REG has contacted the developer regarding Grove Farm to ask about commercial premises – perhaps in the old barn? Had Croudace discussed this with RDC?

County Crafts

This site had permission previously for 9 houses (3 to be affordable) plus commercial premises. The new application for three 4-bed/6-bed houses is not what Robertsbridge needs – some response is needed. The previous application was more in keeping with the needs of Robertsbridge.
**TS**: commercial premises on that site may not be viable, but smaller properties would be preferable.
The Croudace exhibition of the Grove Farm plans elicited many requests for a roundabout at the top of George Hill.
**DC**: the PC have requested a roundabout as part of the CIL funding.

**Tourism Strategy
SH:** we have offers of help from the Rother tourism officer, Kevin Boorman (1066 Country Marketing) and George Bailey’s assistant (National Trust, Bodiam).
**TS**: have the pubs expressed any interest? **SH**: both Jane (The George) and Gail (Salehurst Halt) have offered to help.
**SP**: can this be part of the Local Plan?
**KW**: we really need the Robertsbridge tourism brochure. **SH**: 1066 have funding available.
**SP**: when is the RVR likely to feature in all this?
**TS**: I’m willing to help with this if others are willing. **SH**: shall we plan a meeting for early January/February?

**Next Meetings**: Next REG open meeting: The Robertsbridge Club at 19.30 on 4 March 2015.

**The meeting closed at 21.10.**