

# HART'S GARDEN COMMUNITY THEMATIC GROUP - GREEN SPACES MINUTES



**DATE OF MEETING: 29 JANUARY 2021**

## **I. ATTENDEES AND ABSENCES**

In attendance:

Officers:

Patricia Hughes (PH)  
Christine Tetlow (CT)  
Jen Kennedy (JK)  
Noel Armstrong (NA)

Apologies:

Cllr Graham Cockarill (Cabinet Member for Place)  
Neil Hince (Hart District Council)  
Philip Sheppard (Hart District Council)

Stakeholders:

Jane Ward (JW), Dementia Friendly Hampshire  
Lucy Page (LP), Fleet Phoenix  
Penny Woods (PW), Energise Me  
Philip Riley (PR), Basingstoke Canal Society  
Caroline Winchurch (CW), Hart Voluntary Action  
Mark Sumner (MS), MoD  
Tristram Cary (TC), Rural Hart Association  
Andrew Tyas (AT), North East Hants Ramblers  
Andrew Ratcliffe (AR), Landscape Manager, Hart District Council  
Adam Maskill (AM), Senior Tree Officer, Hart District Council  
Nicky Williamson (NW), Biodiversity Officer, Hart District Council  
Adam Green (AG), Countryside Manager, Hart District Council  
Nick Silvester (NS)  
Fariyah Choudhury (FC), Public Health Practitioner, Hampshire County Council  
Kate Cottrell (KC), Fleet Scoop  
Helen Fleming (HF), Odiham Society  
John Fleming (JF), Whitewater Valley Preservation Society

## **2. WELCOME**

In his absence, a short video from Cllr Graham Cockarill was played to welcome the group.

## **3. SHORT RECAP ON THE GARDEN COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY**

The Officers provided an overview of MHCLG Garden Community program and the opportunity to investigate a new garden community in Shapley Heath:

- **Overview of Timeline** - The Officers provided an overview of the project phases, estimated dates, timeframes, and tasks.
- **The Prospectus** - The Officers provided an overview of the documents in the prospectus and what each of those key outputs will include.
- **Stakeholder Forum Involvement** - The Officers provided an overview of each Thematic Group and what documents within the prospectus they should give focus to. It was highlighted however, that groups will touch on most of the prospectus documents at some point.
- **Baseline Surveys and Strategy Reports** - The Officers advised that baseline surveys and strategy reports will provide the evidence to the prospectus.
- **The Art of the Possible** - 'What makes an exemplar community for you?'. As this opportunity is not in the planning system, there is freedom to look at things holistically and comprehensively in a way not often seen when exploring new settlements.

#### **4. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Officers provided an overview of the Core Functions, Roles and Responsibilities and Chairship of the Thematic Group.

#### **5. CHAIR ELECTION**

The Officers invited stakeholders to put themselves forward for the Chairship.

Caroline Winchurch (Hart Voluntary Action) had confirmed interest ahead of the meeting. No one nominated themselves to also stand for Chair. Caroline expressed why she wanted to be Chair and what she could bring to the role.

Caroline Winchurch, as the only candidate, assumed position to chair the Green Space thematic group.

#### **6. STEERING GROUP NOMINATION AND ELECTION**

The Officers invited stakeholders to put themselves forward for the Steering Group.

Adam Green (Hart District Council), Andrew Ratcliffe (Hart District Council) and Philip Riley (Basingstoke Canal Society) nominated themselves to sit on the Steering Group.

The three nominees expressed why they wanted to sit on the Steering Group and what they could bring to the role.

An anonymous electronic poll was shared with the group for voting. Anyone who was unable to view the poll, emailed their vote to the Garden Community Project Team.

The vote resulted in Adam Green and Andrew Ratcliffe being elected to represent the Green Spaces thematic group on the Steering Group.

## **7. VISION & OBJECTIVES – COMMUNITY SURVEY**

The Officers introduced the Community Survey, which will provide an evidence base to inform the vision and objectives for the project. The MHCLG Garden Community Principles were outlined and clarity was provided as to those principles that this thematic group would focus on for the purposes of the Community Survey questions.

Several draft questions regarding 'Healthy Places' and 'Green Spaces' were tabled to the group for initial thoughts.

- AT suggested reviewing the opportunity to pick more than three options
- KC suggested splitting natural spaces for different ages, and play spaces for different ages, in the options
- AG highlighted the importance of including blue spaces in the list of bullet points
- TC wanted to see how we could cover issues of environmental concern
- PH suggested using clearer language in the survey (avoiding planning, technical speak)
- AG suggested that we try to address areas of ecological and landscape importance (Basingstoke Canal, Thames Basin, North Downs Corridor, Blackwater Valley)

The Officers agreed to set up a document library and collaboration channel (like Teams, for example) to allow knowledge sharing.

Members of the group were given **seven days** to provide feedback to the Garden Community Project Team.

## **8. NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING**

The Officers advised that several baseline studies were currently underway and that these will be shared with the group for discussion at the next meeting. Details of the next meeting will be provided shortly.