

Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group

Minutes Friday 13th December 2019 10:00am – 12.30pm

Anne Downer Room, The Corner House

Present:

Peter Kenrick (PK)

Tony Merry (TM)

Janet Burroughs (JB)

Catherine Goyder (CG)

Graham Terry (GT)

Apologies:

Juliet West (JW)

Chris Sharpe (CS)

Reg James (RG)

Rod Evans (RE)

1. Welcome, conflicts of interest , minutes of previous meeting

No additional conflicts of interest.

Minutes of previous meeting 29th November 2019 were approved.

2. Matters arising

All covered in agenda

3. Action log

1911-01 Proposed housing revisions

Paper has been produced by RE and circulated. Will be shared with town councilors and made available to WODC ahead of planned meeting with them (see action 1911-04).

1911-02 Work with TC Environmental Working Group (EWG)

Initial meeting of the EWG to be held on Saturday 14th December. PK is a member of the EWG and will attend.

1911-03 Identify changes to reflect declared Climate Emergency

CG has limited time available so TM will assume responsibility for this action.

1911-04 Seek meeting with WODC

Meeting has been arranged for 10th January 2020. PK and RE to attend.

4. Consultation Review

4.1 Housing

As reported under action 1911-01, proposed revisions have been identified in the paper produced by RE & RJ and circulated. This will form the basis of discussions with WODC with respect to housing. Any comments on the paper should be sent to RE and shared with the steering group.

Of particular significance are WODC comments re: compliance with the WO Local Plan 2031 with respect to proposed developments within the built-up area. RE has suggested some changes in this regard and these will be discussed with WODC at the meeting on 10th January. The WODC suggestion to include a definitive map of the built-up area was noted and TM has identified such a map produced by WODC in association with potential CIL rollout. This map would need some modification but may be useful. However, some concerns were also expressed that such a map could also have the unintended consequences of making it more difficult to resist or influence certain developments within the designated zone.

4.2 Economy, Community, Transport and Movement

GT and PK are continuing to work on this area.

4.3 Natural Environment (excluding Local Green Space)

CG and TM are continuing to work on this area. The main emphasis is on potential revisions to reflect the declared Climate Emergency. Consultation responses from SusCha, Anne Miller and Christine Elliott are particularly useful in this regard.

At the forthcoming EWG meeting, PK will outline the current state of play with the NP and encourage input from EWG members. (**See Action 1911-02**)

CG had been working with Anne Miller on recommendations for revisions to section 7 (Natural Environment and Green Space) with particular emphasis of Policy NE6 (Green Infrastructure). One specific recommendation in this area concerns the broadening of scope to “Blue-Green Infrastructure” to recognize the importance of water courses and water quality and to integrate their protection and enhancement with green infrastructure and biodiversity. CG to share the above recommendations with TM and PK. **Action: CG**

GT raised the question of identifying / acquiring land for tree planting. Consideration will be given to adding this to the Natural Environment section of the draft plan. **Action: CG/TM**

4.4 Local Green Spaces

Work had progressed on sites considered at risk of removal as agreed at the previous meeting. After further discussion of specific cases it was agreed that a summary of proposed LGS changes should be produced and circulated as soon as possible. **Action: TM**

4.5 Historic Environment

JW is continuing to work on assessment of responses.

It is recognized that section 8.7 (re: Article 4 Direction) is not appropriate to a Neighbourhood Plan and will be removed. Once the plan is “made”, the town council will be able to consider whether to request WODC to apply an Article 4 Direction.

5. Timetable

The Town Council will complete its 4 year term at the end of April 2020. A new council will take office in May following elections on 7th May. It is important to ensure that the current town council is able to submit a revised draft plan before its term ends. Failure to achieve this would inevitably lead to significant further delay to the progress of the plan as the new council would legitimately wish to review the plan prior to submission.

To achieve this deadline, the following timetable is required:

- Detailed report to TC proposing revisions with explanations – before January TC meeting (29/1/20)
- Dedicated TC meeting to discuss draft plan revisions – Mid-February.
- TC approves revisions and any associated actions – February TC meeting (26/2/20)
- Revised draft plan and consultation statement produced – Early March.
- TC formally approves the revised draft and consultation statement for submission – March TC meeting (25/3/20)
- Town Clerk submits the revised draft plan – 26/3/20

This timetable allows a contingency of one month only in the event of unforeseen issues.

6. Consultation Statement

Work ongoing.

7. AOB

None.

8. Date of next meeting: 13th January 2020 at 2pm.