

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING

19 December 2013

Minutes pages 1- 4

Present:

Charles Bates	Trevor Honychurch
Tom Baxter	Harry Nicholls
David Bowie	Neil Pearce
Carol Cholerton	Richard Rose
Elizabeth Dixon	Dave Savage
Andrew Dow	John Scampion
Peter Emmerson	David Stephenson
Jenny Fradgley	Sarah Summers (Clerk)
Mark Haselden (Chairman)	

1) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Phil Aplin, Eric Brookes, Helen Crook, David Langman, Martyn Luscombe, Roger Matthews and Moira Tsolakis.

2) Minutes

A correction was made to the date of the meeting held in October. Following the amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 31 October, 2013 were approved as a correct record.

3) Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Mark Haselden, reported that:

- We are working towards a draft NP being available in January.
- This is being worked-up by the Management Group.
- The draft NP will be circulated prior to the January NP Meeting and will be an agenda item for discussion.
- A few copies were circulated at the meeting, but the draft is not meant for public debate or scrutiny at this stage, as the Town Centre Group, in particular, are still reviewing their submission.
- It was agreed however, that an electronic copy of the draft on the table would be circulated amongst those attending the meeting on 19 December.

- A workshop with the Town Council is being scheduled for January in order to obtain the views and mandate of the Council.
- A new Residents' Association has been established south of the river, known as Community Against Urban Sprawl and Exploitation (CAUSE), primarily to fight against the plan to build two-hundred and fifty houses on Arden Heath Farm on Loxley Road.

4) Work in Progress

4.1 David Stephenson gave a verbal update of the progress of the Core Strategy.

He also advised that with regard to the Situation in Tiddington, he is not aware of any planning applications being submitted for the Home Guard Club site, as yet. David considered that we should, perhaps, resurrect a residents' meeting to explain the situation and look for future housing sites in the very likely event that Tiddington will be expanded to meet an increased District housing requirement.

David went on to explain that Alveston residents are producing an Alveston Sustainable Infill Development Plan which is hoped to be ready by the end of January. It is intended that this should form part of the Neighbourhood Plan, if appropriate.

4.2 Mark advised that both he and David Stephenson had meetings with the main owners of the proposed regeneration zone, which is mainly the Listers Group, Listers Group/Town Trust, SDC and Denys Short. Although there is willingness on their part to negotiate, they are hitting blockages with regard to the price for the land out on the A46 which, in terms of price expectations, is currently pretty unrealistic.

It may transpire that the regeneration is tackled in two phases and it is important that adequate land is set aside in the first phase to make way for the second phase in due course.

4.3 John Scampion reported that he'd had productive meetings with the Birthplace Trust and Warwickshire County Council which had made his team review their earlier findings.

In light of the discussions it was thought necessary to strengthen Henley Street as a cultural/educational quarter.

Currently shared space appears to be a 'free for all' with cars, pedestrians, bicycles, all respecting the other and although it is safe, it doesn't appear to be and causes confusion. Confusion results in opposition and we need to be clear and concise in 'what we want and where we want it'.

Warwickshire County Council has made it clear that they are generally

in agreement of pedestrianisation/shared space in the town centre, but they will not push it, they will only do what there is mandate for. Their advice is to make the plan very clear and look at other options other than shared space.

- i) Have a scheme similar to Henley Street i.e. close at peak times with access at beginning and end of day;
- ii) Something similar to Waterside i.e. broaden footways, landscape and instigate a one way system;
- iii) Combination of the two.

The question is whether we leave the plan as it is which talks rather generally about shared space, or whether it is better to designate now so there is clarity in what we are proposing.

The Town Centre group is edging towards the second alternative and would like to work with WCC who can do the computer based modelling to ascertain the impact on congestion which the various proposals would make, including parking issues.

John proposed that a meeting is called with his group and the transportation group to put forward proposals which have more clarity.

This idea was supported with two caveats:

- i) Anything more specific must be supported by robust, objective evidence as it is likely to be challenged. The WCC modelling must be undertaken to provide such evidence.
- ii) We will need to think through the implications for timing, although this shouldn't delay things unduly as this work can be done in parallel with the rest of the Plan.

4.4 Jenny Fradgley advised that in terms of planning decisions within Council, it is vital that the NP document is published as soon as possible. Neil Pearce confirmed that as soon as the document is published it does hold some weight, and as it progresses through each stage, so that weight becomes stronger.

5) Transport Infrastructure

It was agreed that John Scampion and Kevin Bond would meet to review the cross-over of issues relating to both the Transport Group and the Infrastructure Group.

6) Communications

A holding statement would be issued for the first page of the website.

Elizabeth Dixon expressed concern that she was not being given information to update the website which is now quite out of date. Mark suggested that this is taken up outside the meeting.

Under AOB, the Chairman was asked if the analysis from SDC on the questionnaires had been completed, as this is to be published on the website. It is understood that certain information is still awaited.

7) Updates from the Planning Consultant

Nothing of important at this time.

8) Calendar of Meetings

The proposed dates were approved and adopted. It was noted that the Steering Group would now meet every two months with the Management Group meeting on a monthly basis on a Tuesday, dates to be confirmed.

9) Public Participation

There were no public present.

10) Any Other Business

10.1 Peter Emmerson advised that in November, Old Stratford & Drayton Parish Council had received a pre-planning presentation from developers who will be putting in an application before Christmas for a solar farm at Bishopton.

Peter suggested that as sustainability issues are something that runs through the whole plan, perhaps we need to include something in Section II as to where wind and solar farms should be sited on the rural and open land areas of the NP Plan Area.

Mark asked Peter to give this further thought, and discuss with Roger Matthews in order to come up with some specific proposals which would form an agenda item for the January meeting.

10.2 Trevor Honychurch gave a brief update on the NP budget and thanked the Town Council for providing further funding to pay for the specialist scoping reports that are necessary to include with the submission.

The Chairman wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and closed the meeting at 8:00pm.