

**LOCALISM/NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
STEERING GROUP MEETING
26 April, 2012**

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Present:

Phil Applin	Trevor Honychurch
Neil Basnett	Mark Haselden
Charles Bates	Roger Matthews
Tom Baxter	David Morgan
Kevin Bond	Neil Pearce (Planning Consultant)
Helen Crook	Tim Sanders
Andrew Dow	Dave Savage
Jeff Downs	Sarah Summers (Clerk)
Elizabeth Dixon	Moira Tsolakis
Peter Emmerson	Yvonne Wiggins

Observers:

There were four observers present.

Apologies:

David Bowie, Bill Dowling, Jenny Fradgley, David Langman, Alan Marks MBE, Charlie Michaelis, Harry Nicholls and Kate Rolfe.

It was noted with sadness that having been involved in a car accident, Alan Marks was currently in hospital. Best wishes for a speedy recovery were recorded from everyone on the Committee.

1) Minutes

The Minutes were approved as a correct record.

2) Chairman's Report

2.1 The Chairman advised that he had attended the first session of the Dawlish examination hearing on 23 April. He confirmed that although Dawlish would not be formally adopting a Neighbourhood Plan (the document does not comply on process or content). An examination is still taking place with a view to incorporating the Dawlish 'Neighbourhood Plan' in the Teignbridge Core Strategy.

Mark witnessed considerable opposition, including that from a London barrister, Christopher Boyle from Landmark Chambers.

During proceedings, Mr Boyle expressed concern on 6 main areas:

- 1) Ownership of document
- 2) What is it promoting?
- 3) To what purpose?
- 4) On what evidence?
- 5) Soundness of content
- 6) Non-compliance with European Law.

The Chairman considered that the Stratford-upon-Avon Neighbourhood Plan team need to be aware that Neighbourhood Plans in general may be facing well - funded and well organised opposition, including challenges to the process.

The matter will be given further thought at the Management Meetings, but clearly there are a number of things that can be done to head off potential problems, including engaging with developers as part of the process.

2.2 Mark touched briefly on the RSC's plans for the Courtyard Theatre, and introduced David Collins from the theatre's marketing division. David was in attendance to present the 'Tourism Straw Man' but would also be available to talk through the theatre's plans to apply for permanent planning permission. The proposal includes a smaller theatre, rehearsal rooms and the costume department.

2.3 The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Management team has clearly identified many common themes which are cutting across all the 'Straw Men'. The Chairman considers it necessary to re-structure the working parties to ensure:

- That a proforma document can be produced that identifies gaps;
- That working parties are matched to proforma document/gaps;
- That further consultation is undertaken to provide evidence and direction;

- That consideration is given how issues should be dealt with (probably isolate and consult).

Further thought will be given to this at the next Management Meeting and the findings presented for comment to the Steering Group before the restructuring is approved at the June meeting.

3) Presentation – Historic Spine

Kevin Bond, on behalf of the Stratford Society gave a verbal presentation on the Historic Spine, which encompasses Stratford's finest historic buildings from Shakespeare's Birthplace in Henley Street, to Holy Trinity in Old Town.

The Stratford Society, with partner organisations, has been working on the spine for some time, and Dr Bond gave an in-depth update, which was supported by various documents (copies available from Beryl Downing of the Stratford Society):

- The Historic Spine – Foundation for the Future;
- The Historic Spine – A guide to Stratford's finest buildings;
- The Next Twenty Years – The Historic Spine Guide.

There followed a number of interesting questions and observations from the floor and Kevin concluded his presentation by confirming that the County Council has sanctioned support, feedback from the District Council is very positive, and the Town Council, which has already received a presentation, will sanction its support through the Planning Committee.

4) Presentation – Retail Business Straw Man

Neil Basnett, Chairman of the working party dealing with retailing, which falls within the wider remit of Business & Tourism, gave an interesting and detailed presentation evolving around a Power Point presentation, which is circulated with these minutes.

5) Presentation – Tourism Straw Man

A Power Point presentation on the Tourism Straw Man immediately followed Neil Basnett's presentation, and although it focused primarily on the RSC, it also covered

tourism issues in general. It soon became obvious that, once again, there were many cross over issues in common with retail business in the town.

Questions and observations from the floor were forthcoming during both Neil and David's presentations, and many interesting points were upcoming which will be channelled into the new working party structure for further consideration.

Unfortunately, the Power Point Presentation exceeds that which can be attached to an e-mail circular, so a hard copy of the presentation will be available at the next Steering Group Meeting. The Word Draft Proposals from the Working Party on Tourism is circulated with these minutes.

The three excellent presentations were in-depth and thorough and therefore required considerable time to be appropriately delivered, as well as factoring in adequate time for questions and observations.

Being mindful of the time, the Chairman proposed, and it was AGREED that the majority of the remaining issues on the Agenda would be considered at the next Steering Group Meeting on 31 May:

- ***Updates from Working Parties – postponed***
- ***Update from Planning Consultant – postponed***
- ***Update on Governance and Personal Interests – postponed***

6) Public Participation

The issues which were raised by the observers throughout the meeting were dealt with as they arose and no further dedicated public participation was forthcoming.

7) To consider any other business

There was no other business.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:25pm.

Action:

1. Review of working parties;
2. Chairmen - Updates from working parties;
3. Neil Pearce - Review of NPPF;
4. Sarah Summers - Update on governance and Personal Interests.
5. Sarah Summers – provide hard copies of Tourism Straw Man.

Enclosures:

1. Retail Business Straw Man Power Point presentation;
2. The Word Draft Proposals from the Working Party on Tourism;
3. Tourism Straw Man Power Point presentation – too large for normal e-mail circulation. Hard copies will be available at the next Steering Group Meeting.