



Council Offices, Commercial Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8NG
01305 239839 – office@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk

NOTES OF MEETING

Meeting: Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting

Date & Time: Monday 20th May 2024 at 7.00pm

Place: Council Chamber, The New Town Hall, Commercial Road

PRESENT:

Chair: Colin Marsh

Steering Group Members: Cllr Howard Atkinson, Cllr Jon Orrell, Michael Bevan, Penny Quilter, Phil Watts, Rob Cheeseman

Apologies: Cllr David Northam , Jane Biscombe, Lara Wood

Project Support: Michele Williams

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION	BY WHOM
1.	<p>Welcome and Apologies: As David was delayed it was agreed that Colin chaired the meeting in his capacity as Vice Chair.</p> <p>He welcomed everyone and introductions were made to the two new councillor members Cllr Jon Orrell and Cllr Howard Atkinson and asked them to give a brief overview of their background.</p> <p>Howard explained that he was a retired academic biologist and moved to Weymouth 2 years ago, he had been asked to join as he has experience of undergoing a Neighbourhood Plan process although on a smaller scale.</p> <p>Jon advised he joined to promote a green angle, and also in his capacity as the newly elected Mayor he intended to adopt a consensus-based approach and represent all areas of Weymouth equally.</p> <p>Some discussion around the lack of support from cross party representation took place. In response to the SG request for cross-party representation it was noted that the Conservative party had chosen not to seek representation It was the wish of the SG that the Conservative councillors reconsider their position or at the very least nominate another ward councillor, ideally from an under-represented area of Weymouth such as Preston or Wyke Regis.</p> <p>The chair expressed thanks to the previous members of the Steering Group that have not continued either due to not being re-elected or deciding to step down due to other commitments. This was supported unanimously.</p>		

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	<p>With Sandie Wilson leaving there is a resident vacancy. Discussion around how these could be filled, agreed to put out something to people who have previously expressed an interest in the SG or been being involved such as Theme Group, Focus Group or Neighbourhood Forum members. It was confirmed that this would be open to previous members including councillors who are now residents. Those applying were to provide a short resume as to their reasons and what they can bring to the group.</p>	<p>Email out seeking interest</p>	<p>Michele</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Minutes & Matters Arising:</p> <p>Minutes of last meeting held 15th April were approved.</p> <p>Action: To chase AECOM re update on maps which are vital for plan.</p> <p>It was noted that a number of other matters arising were on the agenda as separate items to be considered at this meeting.</p> <p>The chair asked for comments on the summary Regulation 14 document provided by Paul Weston in February. In the absence of any further comments it was agreed to adopt this document subject to the corrections identified in the paper circulated at the March meeting by CM.</p>	<p>Upload onto webpage Chase AECOM</p>	<p>Michele Michele</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Reg 14 Analysis – Discussion:</p> <p>A brief overview was given to the new councillor members on where we are now and that our focus will be on the ‘green’ highlighted policies (policies that do not require vast changes), before we move onto the ‘amber’ (proposed changes to policy and supporting text wording) and then ‘red’ (further evidence and consultation required) policies.</p> <p>CM advised that if anyone thought that the designation of policies into green, amber and red need changes then he welcomes any input. Michele to send out policy narrative document to the group and any feedback on the ‘green’ policies to be sent to her by Monday 10th so she can collate in time for the additional meeting to be arranged.</p> <p>UPDATE: This meeting now scheduled for Thursday 13th to seek initial endorsement of the above policies in addition to Viability Assessment and comments from Paul Weston.</p> <p>PW commented on the Planning Inspectorate’s recent criticism of DC’s reliance on transitional arrangements outlined in the NPPF in calculating its deliverable housing supply and which do not apply. This follows the DC decision to abandon the previous Local Plan review in March this year, in favour of a ‘new-style’ Local Plan, RC suggested that this should be recorded as an additional risk in the WNP risk register.</p>	<p>Arrange meeting</p>	<p>Michele</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Forward Plan:</p> <p>RC presented the Forward Plan – which was created with input from Colin, Michele and himself – this included proposed timescales. It was</p>		

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	<p>noted that the plan was flexible and would form a living document which will be updated prior to each steering group so that the members have a clear point of reference for monitoring progress. The current projection is to deliver the 'submission version' of the plan by September of this year, it being noted that. There is still a lot of work to be done.</p>		
5	<p>Viability Assessment Update:</p> <p>Due to DN, as Chair and Theme Group Lead for Homes, not being able to attend to present this item it was agreed to defer to an additional meeting to be arranged by Michele.</p> <p>UPDATE: Meeting arranged for Thursday 13th June at 5pm – alongside discussion regarding 'green' policies.</p>	<p>Arrange extra meeting</p>	<p>Michele</p>
6.	<p>Steering Group Roles:</p> <p>There was discussion on whether the current Chair and Vice-Chair to remain as they are or whether members felt that it should change. All agreed that they happy with the current Chair and Vice-Chair, so no changes proposed.</p>		
7.	<p>Dorset Council Questions:</p> <p>In the absence of DN it was decided that any questions that members wanted to put to Dorset Council for the upcoming meetings should be emailed to Michele who would collate them and send to DC in readiness for the upcoming meetings. Deadline for questions to Michele is Friday 24th May so she can collate and send to DC in.</p>	<p>Questions to Michele by 24/05/24</p>	<p>ALL</p>
8.	<p>Frequently Asked Questions:</p> <p>Numerous questions–have recently been asked by the public, both formally and informally about the Neighbourhood Plan. In response it was agreed that a 'fact sheet' will be created and put onto the Neighbourhood Plan page of the Weymouth Town Council web site to help clarify and address some of the common issues raised.</p> <p>It was agreed to send any additions to Michele by 10th June so that a final version can be presented for agreement before being placed on the web site.</p>	<p>Anything to add to Michele by 10/06/2024</p>	<p>ALL</p>
9.	<p>Any other Business:</p> <p>MB was concerned that residents were not aware that we are currently in a housing crisis and questioned whether we had done enough. It was noted that Affordable Housing had been consistently raised by residents as of primary concern, had been a major point of discussion in the <i>public</i> engagement and consultation and underpinned a number of key policies. There had also been frequent contact with the housing officers in Dorset Council and other relevant third parties during policy drafting and this was on-going following the Regulation 14 feedback.</p>		

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	<p>PQ suggested that it is imperative that we understand the implications of the SFRA2 for the Neighbourhood Plan. It was hoped to address these concerns in the briefing by DC to all new councillors and the steering group member on 4th June.</p> <p>JO asked whether we can ensure that the DC view of 'Affordable Housing' actually includes Social Housing provided by the Local Authority at realistic rents as much of the current affordable housing' is not actually affordable to local people. He also asked whether we are in contact with the Community Land Trust and noted that other councils are buying land and building their own social housing – why not DC?</p> <p>Michele reminded members that the two meetings with Dorset Council are:- → Friday 31st May @ 2pm – Meeting with Assets, Enabling Team and Housing → Tuesday 4th June @ 8pm – Briefing re SFRA from DC</p>	Chase invites for meeting	Michele
10.	<p>Dates of Future Meetings:</p> <p>Date: Monday 17th June 2024 Date: Monday 15th July 2024 Date: Monday 19th August 2024 Date: Monday 16th September 2024 Date: Monday 21st October 2024</p> <p>Time: 7pm Venue: Council Chamber</p>		

Meeting ended at 9:07pm