

## NOTES OF MEETING

**Meeting:** Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting

**Date & Time:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm

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

### PRESENT:

**Chair:** Cllr David Northam

**Steering Group Members:** Cllr Ann Weaving, Cllr Colin Huckle, Cllr Lucy Hamilton, Michael Bevan, Paul Weston, Penny Quilter, Phil Watts, Rob Cheeseman, Sara Parker, Colin Marsh (online) for part of the meeting.

**Project Support:** Michele Williams, Jane Biscombe

**Special Attendance:** Cllr John Orrell

| ITEM | DISCUSSION  | ACTION   | BY WHOM                       |
|------|---|--|-------------------------------|
| 1.   | <p><b>Welcome and Apologies:</b></p> <p>David welcomed everyone and introduced Michael Bevan.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Ben Heath, Colin Marsh, Lara Wood.</p>  |  |                               |
| 2.   | <p><b>Minutes &amp; Matters Arising:</b></p> <p>Minutes of last meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> January were approved.</p> <p>Changes to be made identified as follows:</p> <p><b>Item 5:</b> Paragraph 2 to change 'active' to 'inactive'.</p>   | <p>(26.1) Upload to webpage</p> <p>(26.2) Michele to amend as identified</p> | <p>Michele</p> <p>Michele</p> |
| 3.   | <p><b>Consideration of new Steering Group Member:</b></p> <p>David gave some background to Michael Bevan's past and explained that in his current volunteering role he often gets complaints about the lack of affordable housing for local people.</p> <p>Michael was asked to leave the room while the Steering Group Members discussed whether to accept Michael's request to join the group. All agreed and Michael was invited back and welcomed as member of group.</p> | <p>(26.3) Michael to be added to email and teams group</p>                   | <p>Michele</p>                |
| 4.   | <p><b>Design Code Briefing – Rachel Noke:</b></p> <p>Rachel gave a brief presentation (see attached), which ended with 4 questions that were requiring input from the Steering Group. David after some discussion felt that as they had only been circulated recently it was not enough time for everyone to have read and come up with other suggestions.</p>  | <p>(26.4) Circulate presentation with minutes</p>                            | <p>Michele</p>                |

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|------|--|---------------------------------------|----------------|
|      | <p>Agreed that if anyone has any comments, particularly on the 12 principles, to send directly to Rachel and copy the Weymouth Neighbourhood email so that recorded elsewhere.<br/>Email: <a href="mailto:Neighbourhood@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk">Neighbourhood@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Discussion points were as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are we engaging with Housing Associations – yes we are and there is a meeting with Housing Associations including Dorset Council tomorrow.</li> <li>- What does affordable housing mean – housing that is not only affordable for people to buy/rent but also affordable in terms of being able to live in i.e. good insulation to help with cost of heating etc.</li> <li>- Need to remember that WNP only has some influence on any future building regulations – but this will only apply to future new homes or converted properties not the older already converted properties.</li> <li>- Paul raised concern over two possible mission and aims – will need some discussion about which to use or merge them.</li> <li>- Penny raised that the Design Code only appears to mention homes but not community and other buildings.</li> </ul> <p>John explained that some of his constituents had raised concerns, hence his attendance this evening. His wards are in a high-density area with lots of housing in poor conditions and with a large number of HMO's (Homes of multiple occupancy). Although there is register with Dorset Council it only includes homes over 3 storeys whereas most of the current HMO's are 2 storeys. Phil commented that other areas have a limit to the number of HMO's they allow in an area.</p> <p>John also mentioned concerns over car parks being converted. David explained that the SHLAA sites came from Dorset Council, and we have no input into this. David is aware that there has been recent miscommunication sent out which has caused lots of concern for resident but is untrue. The Dorset LEP report shows Weymouth Town car parks are only busy in the summer months and the rest of the time they are not fully utilised.</p> <p>There is a Design Code Pathfinders Programme event on 6<sup>th</sup> March but is in London and explained although Rachel might attend it is not a good use of SG member's time.</p> <p>PMN: As the DLUHC cannot arrange a hybrid meeting with online and in-person attendees, David and Rachel will attend (Colin and Phil have declined attending due to other commitments).</p> | (26.5)<br>Comments to Rachel directly | All SG members |
| 5    | <p><b>Feedback on 3<sup>rd</sup> Engagement – Paul Weston:</b></p> <p>Paul wanted to thank the Council staff for the work they have done in getting the survey documents and comments out to him to help him with his report.</p>  |                                       |                |

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|-------------|--|---|-------------|--------------------------|---|------|---|--------------------|----|-------|----|--|--|--|----------------|
|             | <p>David advised he had asked Sarah if possible, to run off a report which shows an individual's response across all questions (attached). Agreed that it would have been helpful to ask for a postcode to identify where the responses have come from.</p> <p>Paul was very positive about the responses and although there were lots of comments on certain questions, they were constructive. This also included that although negative on the contentious questions the rest were positively responded on.</p> <p>David also explained that following the Council's social media posts there were noticeable spikes in the responses which was positive.</p> <p>David advised the group that he was going to write to the Planning department about how the impact that the false communication has had on the results, as he was concerned that the number of negative comments would be taken into account. Phil did make a point that although we cannot demonstrate that there was an impact on the false communication, we can allude to it having potentially influenced results.</p> <p>Penny asked if there is a list of the redundant community buildings that we could provide in the focus group - David replied that although we do, in order to not focus on only the town centre he would suggest not.</p> <p>Comment was made about the 20 minutes neighbourhood which Rachel referred to in all her questions, and that this was not really addressed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> engagement. Sara suggested we could have a display in the theme groups and ask for comments on a display board on what individuals think is missing in the communities.</p> <p>Discussion around Design Code and the timings not aligning with the WNP – Paul advised that the Design Code does not need to be included in the NP. The Design Code needs to go at its own pace and we can refer to it in the WNP as long as the Council adopt it.</p> <p>Currently the numbers for the Theme Groups are as follows;</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="209 1626 987 1744"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Communities</td> <td>9</td> <td>Sustainable Environments</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jobs</td> <td>6</td> <td>Local Green Spaces</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Homes</td> <td>10</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It was suggested that theme group leads have a look at who was invited and who has not responded and contact them directly to try get sign up. Also individuals could stay for more than one session if they wanted to and numbers allowed on the day.</p> | Communities                                       | 9           | Sustainable Environments | 4 | Jobs | 6 | Local Green Spaces | 10 | Homes | 10 |  |  | <p>(26.6)<br/>Circulate the individual response report</p> | <p>Michele</p> |
| Communities | 9  | Sustainable Environments                          | 4           |                          |   |      |   |                    |    |       |    |  |  |  |                |
| Jobs        | 6  | Local Green Spaces                                | 10          |                          |   |      |   |                    |    |       |    |  |  |  |                |
| Homes       | 10   |   |             |                          |   |      |   |                    |    |       |    |  |  |  |                |
|             | <p>Sara will send out the list as a attachment rather than the link as aware some members still struggling to access the Teams group.</p>  | <p>(26.7) Send out invite list to theme leads</p> | <p>Sara</p> |                          |   |      |   |                    |    |       |    |  |  |  |                |

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|------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| 6.   | <p><b>Focus Group Key Questions – Paul Weston:</b></p> <p>Paul had drafted questions for the Focus Groups to help guide the session, he did not expect any comments only sent out today. Any comments or revisions to be sent to Paul for the first two sessions on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> to be sent to Paul by close of day tomorrow (Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February) and the other sessions by close of day Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February.</p> <p>A 2-page bullet point document will be available to leads to help steer the discussions – to be sent out with pre-reading by Friday.</p> <p>Sara advised that all pre-reading for the attendees will be sent out on Friday as well.</p> | <p>(26.8) Any comments on questions to be sent to Paul</p> <p>(26.9) Pre-reading to be sent out Friday</p> | <p>All SG members</p> <p>Sara</p> |
| 7.   | <p><b>Update on Meetings with Dorset Council &amp; Meeting with Housing Associations – David Northam:</b></p> <p>David gave short update on his meetings with Dorset Council and some points as a result were;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning are less definite in engagement;</li> <li>• Housing Team are in agreement that more affordable home are necessary and their long waiting list is unacceptable.</li> <li>• Dorset Council recognise the need and are unsure how to resolve it and who’s responsibility it is?</li> </ul> <p>David also reported that he had a meeting with Housing Associations tomorrow and would feedback at the next meeting.</p>            |  |                                   |
| 8.   | <p><b>Risk Register:</b></p> <p>Deferred to next meeting.</p>   | <p>(26.10) Agenda item for next meeting</p>  | <p>Michele</p>                    |
| 9.   | <p><b>Budget Report:</b></p> <p>Deferred to next meeting.</p>   | <p>(26.11) Agenda item for next meeting</p>  | <p>Michele</p>                    |
| 10.  | <p><b>Any Other Business:</b></p> <p><b>Rob:</b> Gave an update on the presentation that was given at the CEE Group by Penny, Phil and himself. He was a bit disappointed in the lack of interest, although they were invited to return, which was positive.</p>  |  |                                   |

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|------|---|--|------------------------------------|
|      | <p><b>Paul:</b> Although keen on having targets in the Plan he would rather have them in a document alongside as otherwise in black &amp; white and therefore the Council will be committed.</p> <p><b>David:</b> Following on from special meeting last week David and Colin have finalised the complaint which will send to Dorset Council by Colin by the end of the week as deadline is Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>.<br/>Phil was keen to point out that we should mention how it undermines the Council's resolution.</p> <p><b>Lucy:</b> Asked who would own the WNP – ultimately the Town Council own it and the delegated Steering Group take it forward. Lucy also agreed with Penny's comments that this is distraction and queried if there was a way that we could send out some positive information – she suggested the Register which goes out to most of the homes in Weymouth.<br/>Lucy to discuss with Sarah about what best to put into the Register.</p> <p>All agreed that it would be good to keep sending out positive messages rather than focus on negative from now until September.</p> <p><b>Penny:</b> Has had some conversations with people who are concerned about the Character Area Assessment – query if our document can be altered. David advised yes in theory it is, but AECOM also want it to be theirs for them to be able to use to demonstrate their work. We can however ask them to amend which will be actioned this week.</p> | <p>(26.12)<br/>Discussion with Comms to discuss advertisement in the Register</p> <p>(26.11)<br/>Request AECOM to amend document</p> | <p>Lucy</p> <p>David / Michele</p> |
| 11.  | <p><b>Dates of Future Meetings:</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b> Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023<br/><b>Time:</b> 7pm<br/><b>Venue:</b> Council Chamber</p> <p><b>Date:</b> Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April<br/><b>Time:</b> 7pm<br/><b>Venue:</b> Council Chamber</p>   |  |                                    |

Meeting ended at 9:15pm