

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working group held on Friday 25 July 2014

1. Present: Clare Sheridan (Chair) (CS), John Jeynes (JJ), Alastair Shankland (minutes) (AS), Terry Webb (TW), Anna Creed (AC), Gary Powell (GP), Carol Kambites (CK), Ben Creed (BC) & Vicky Redding (VR)
2. Apologies for Absence: Rob Waite, Chris Cowcher, Jo Bryne, Agnieszka Paszkiewicz
3. Declarations of Interest: none
4. Approval of the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group held on 27 June 2014:

Minutes were agreed as correct in all respects other than:

- Section 7, AS to amend to reflect that AC requested that AS contact schools (for a second time) prior to the end of term.

Actions from minutes were run through:

- AS to speak to GRCC (Elin Tattersall) to chase up the remaining time budget.
- JJ reported that he has spoken to Anna Buckland (Monday Young Art Club) in order to arrange youth consultation event at National Citizenship Service event taking place W/C 28 July.
- TW reported two consultation events at Bethel Church Rock Youth Group and Royal British Legion. AS has raw data and will incorporate into cumulative data already collected. TW reported that youth were, understandably, reluctant to fill in questionnaires, while RBL were far keener to give a more detailed response.

5. Budget breakdown & expenditure to date

AS reported no major alteration in position since meeting of 27 June 2014.

6. Project health check

The lack of the project plan was identified the immediate threat. **ACTION** VR, CK and AS to meet to begin to develop draft Gantt chart VR had previously developed in draft form discussions with GRCC (ET).

7. Delivery plan in light of local plan EiP delay

In light of recent advice from SDC that Stonehouse NP should be delayed until such time as the SDC LP is adopted.

VR advised that the Stonehouse cluster Councils' had been advised that this was likely to take around 12-18 months.

AC reviewed the previous meetings notes of 13 June 2104 where Elin Tattersall (GRCC) had advised "NP has to be in line with emerging Core Strategy plans and policies of District and emerging plans".

JJ commented that with such small housing numbers (120 in plan period) and small retail requirement around 5,000m² there is little which will draw people to the process

of plan making. The other areas in the cluster with substantially more housing allocation may have to consider delaying their NP.

AS raised a letter dated 14 July 2014 he had seen on Neil Carmichael's Twitter from Nick Bowles (then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Planning). The letter acknowledges there may be 'challenges in taking forward a neighbourhood plan in the absence of an adopted Local Plan, but it is entirely possible to do so and many areas are doing exactly that'. DCLG letter attached to minutes for completion.

AS also drew attention to Broughton Astley in Leicestershire where Communities Secretary had overruled an inspector to where an application/appeal conflicted with the emerging NP. Link to article <http://www.planningresource.co.uk/article/1291043/pickles-blocks-leicestershire-homes-neighbourhood-plan-conflict>

After general discussion it was agreed that Stonehouse NP should continue to be developed - albeit with an up-to-date project plan and reworked consultation handout.

8. 5th July consultation responses

AS circulated prior to meeting a report based on GRCC format from 5 May event showing consultation responses.

This report was generally discussed, with the group acknowledging that in light of the 23 respondents, consultation must continue in order to form a meaningful evidence base.

VR pointed out that 'piggy backing' on other community events would give the same level response rate as running our own events. It was acknowledged that doing this was still important to highlight NP activities and gather the public view.

9. User group consultation planning

AC raised that the consultation form was not suitable for all groups; in particular it needed greater brevity.

BC commented that there should be shorter statements instead of the introductory text, those statements being derived from consultation responses to date.

In relation to AC & JJ highlighted that there was to be a meeting of local schools imminently. It was hoped by the working group that AC or JJ could raise NP with the schools and encourage school and pupil engagement.

AS reported that business consultation planning had been put on hold, but this should now recommence as soon as practical and capacity allowed.

AS highlighted that all materials (comparable used at 5 July event) are now permanently available to run user group consultation events at short notice. JJ requested to take some for the National Citizenship Service event. This was arranged immediately at the close of the meeting.

10. Any Other Business

The working group generally discussed the idea of forming sub groups to begin advancing the work on the specific themes based on the results of the consultation and desk-based evidence.

ACTION AS to check with Elin Tattersall to confirm group assertion that GRCC are undertaking the assessment of desk-based evidence and presenting it in the appropriate thematic manner.

After discussion TW suggested the following draft group structure: Housing, Environment (Green Space and Recreation), Employment, Amenities and Facilities (Retail, High St) and Transport.

Conversation took place round volunteers for the specific groups. **ACTION AS** to circulate email to wider (and absent) group members inviting them to join the desk-based theme groups.

11. Next Meeting Date

Discussion took place on moving the day of the meeting to a time more amenable to the wider group, AS had identified that Friday at 4 was an increasingly unsuitable for many of the recent members.

ACTION AS to consult deputy Clerk and start a doodle poll on the most suitable day to rearrange the working group meeting.