

## Council Offices, Commercial Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8NG 01305 239839 – <a href="mailto:office@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk">office@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk</a>

## **NOTES OF MEETING**

Meeting: Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting

Date & Time: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7.00pm

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

**PRESENT:** 

Chair: Colin Marsh

Steering Group Members: Colin Marsh, Howard Atkinson, Lara Wood, Michael Bevan, Penny Quilter, Phil

Watts, Rob Cheeseman, Cllr David Northam (from 20:10)

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

**Special Attendance:** 

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION	BY WHOM
1.	Welcome and Apologies:		
	Colin welcomed everyone and asked the meeting whether they wished him to take the chair as Cllr Northam was delayed at another meeting; this was agreed. Apologies were received from Cllr Jon Orrell.		
2.	Paul Barber – Introduction & Vote:		
	Paul Barber introduced himself, giving some of his background and his interest in the Neighbourhood Plan, along with what he could bring to the group at this late stage.		
	Paul was then asked to leave so the group could vote as to whether to ask him to join the group – the group voted in favour of this. Therefore Paul was invited back into the room and welcomed onto the Steering Group as their newest resident member.  Michele to include Paul Barber into all our email groups and grant access to Teams Group.	Paul to be added to email/Teams	Michele
3.	Minutes & Matters Arising:		
	Minutes of last meeting held 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 were approved.  Point 2.1: Discussion on the email that Colin had sent on behalf of the SG and the response received from Cllr O'Leary and the next steps. Views from everyone discussed but agreed to respond to Cllr O'Leary advising that it appears we will have to agree to disagree, but that there will remain a seat on the Steering Group for a councillor nominee from the Conservative group.	Response to Cll O'Leary	Colin

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION	ВҮ
	Paul queried the Terms of Reference and thought he had read that the Chair was a rotating position. The chair noted that this option had been discussed at the start of the process but not pursued with the first chair person. Jane advised that she was not aware of this being in the ToR but was aware that the Chair was to be re-elected and that the group voted in May 2024 that David continue as Chair alongside Colin as Deputy Chair.  Phil advised that he was still willing to meet with Cllr O'Leary as	Check ToR	Jane / Michele
	offered before and that this be communicated.  Point 2.2: A response had been received from AECOM regarding the LGS maps but further work was needed on other site maps. CM noted that some further amendments were needed to LGS maps. Once all the Incidental Spaces have been identified with input from ward councillors the information will be sent to AECOM to produce the maps.	Further contact AECOM by Chair	David
	Point 3 — Forward Plan: Michele advised that Nick Cardnell had responded to her email to advise that there would be no implications on whether the Plan is submitted to DC in October or November but to factor in that if the consultation period ran over the Christmas period it would need to be extended by 1-2 weeks. It was noted that updates to the Forward Plan were a separate item on the agenda.		
	Point 6 – Green & Amber highlighted Policies: Question asked how the update of Plan was going with the new policies. Michele advised that updated in August and reminded the SG that the supporting text also needs to be looked at.		
	Point 10 – Wessex Water Visit: Penny attended the Wessex Water site in Wyke and asked a number of prepared questions. It was confirmed that there are no plans to do any pumping to control the flooding in Commercial Road. David felt that this is something we should raise with DC. Wessex Water have offered to attend any meetings – agreed possibly more suitable for them to attend the CEE Working Group and if they do attend invite DC also.	Update text	SG to advise Michele
	Appropriate contact for DC was advised as Georgia Turner – Planning Liaison Officer.	Check with CEE working group	Michele
4.	Update on Forward Plan:		
	Update on Forward Plan by Rob C/Michele and discussion on the remaining 'Red' site policies meetings. Initially one meeting set for 29 <sup>th</sup> but agreement that an additional meeting is required – Michele to set up one.	Set up additional meeting	Michele

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5	Viability Testing Update:		
	This item was deferred until later in the agenda so that David could contribute. Following briefing on 17 <sup>th</sup> June there has been a response from Dorset Council on things that they deem should/shouldn't be in the plan. Obviously, we do not have to agree with all their input but need to consider what the examiner will deem acceptable taking into account all the responses including DC.		
	Agreed not to remove all non-viable sites mentioned in the viability document but to leave in as evidence of why not viable and why not taken forward.  David to get in touch with George Venning about our views before	Contact George V.	David
6.	responding to DC's email.  SFRA Discussion:		
	Penny reiterated her feedback from Wessex Water that they will not be pumping to deal with the flooding on Commercial Road.  David reminded the group that the Weymouth Esplanade and Harbour FCERM project group at Dorset Council are preparing the Outline Business Case for submission to Government and Environmental Agency to address in order to protect Weymouth from flooding and coastal erosion up to 2120 and beyond. Phase1 focussed on period up to 2039. The Levelling Up Fund addresses repairs to the Harbour Walls  The advice from Dorset Council is that should the WNP wish to allocate sites within the Town Centre than the sequential and exception flood tests will need to be undertaken.  Penny it was concerned that the SFRA does not cover all of Weymouth the Town Centre., David advised that other areas of Weymouth had more recent flood defences and that all development needed to consider the fluvial flood risks.		
	The cost of the sea defences work is not only borne from development. The number of houses already within an area is assessed and is proportionated to the developer. Question as to whether there is an Adaptation and Resilience plan by DC – David advised he will ask the question.  Phil advised that we need to ensure we do not lose sight of the various types of flooding that could impact Weymouth as noted in the SFRA 2 i.e. fluvial, surface water, tidal and groundwater. Noted.	Question to be put to DC See Phils changes	David

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7.	Frequently Asked Questions / Door-to-Door Leaflets:		
	Discussion around the draft FAQ's to be uploaded onto the webpage. Some suggestions on additional questions/answers to be included. Feedback and comments to Michele by Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July.	Feedback / comments to Michele by 17/07/24	All
8.	'Red' Policies:		
	Reminder to the group to look at our Planning Consultant's accompanying papers for the site policies, and the criteria for site consideration.  SG members to offer feedback on the red highlighted policies by 25 <sup>th</sup> July for collation and issue by Michele in readiness for the first meeting.	Feedback comments to Michele by 25/07/2024	All
	David Undertook to provide a summary Table of Pre-Submission Plan allocations	Circulate Summary	David
	Discussion around needing two meetings — one to look at the more 'straight forward' policies then leave the 4 major contentious sites for the second meeting to be scheduled by Michele.		
9.	Any other Business:		
	David queried the response discussed under item 3 and asked to see the proposed response before it was sent.	Circulate Draft response	Colin
	Phil was keen to iterate that David will report back to the relevant committees of WTC on the current situation with the vacant seat for the Conservative party member as part of his regular update on the work of the SG.	Update P&L Mtg	David
10.	Dates of Future Meetings:		
	<b>Date</b> : Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> August 2024		
	<b>Date</b> : Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2024		
	Date: Monday 21st October 2024		
	Time: 7pm		
	Venue: Council Chamber		