



## **Neighbourhood Plan meeting**

Zoom meeting: Monday 07 December 2020, 7pm.

### **Present - WTC**

Cllr Lucy Hamilton  
Cllr David Northam  
Cllr Ann Weaving  
Cllr David Harris  
Cllr Ken Whatley

Cllr Graham Lambert  
Cllr Mark Tewkesbury  
Cllr Jan Bergman  
Cllr Pete Barrow  
Cllr David Gray

Matt Ryan – Deputy Town Clerk  
Jane Biscombe - Town Clerk

Martha Covell, ECA Lead Consultant  
Rachel Noke, ECA Consultant

### **Present – Public and group representatives**

Annerose Weiler – Local resident, background in social housing, advocate Weymouth's natural benefits

Claudia Webb – Weymouth BID

Maxine Foster – Local resident, trustee of Civic Society, advocate opportunities for young people especially employment and housing

Colin Marsh – Sutton Poyntz Neighbourhood Plan

Graham Perry – Weymouth BID Director and BID Representative, also member of Weymouth Museum and Civic Society

Jason West – Weyforward CIC

Nick Spence – Chamber of Commerce, businessman in Weymouth since 1990s.

Nigel Shearing – Residents Group – North Harbourside

Paul Barber – Local Resident, lived in Weymouth 37 years now in Upwey, ex-Services, keen on web-based approaches

Pauline Crump – Weymouth Civic Society, Chair of Planning & Environment Committee

Penny Quilter – Local Resident –ex Public Health Nurse – advocate of EcoTourism

Peter Dye - Sutton Poyntz Neighbourhood Plan formerly Chair, ex-Services – Nottingham Resident

Rob Tripp – Landsdowne Square Residents Association, ex-Services, Planning experience

Sarah Moyle – Chair, South Dorset Ramblers Group – advocate Safe and Healthy Neighbourhoods

Sue Prescott – Chair, Weymouth Area Development Trust – making Weymouth better place

Tony King – The Upwey Society, advocate for local amenities and Affordable Housing

## 1. Introductions and welcome

Cllr Lucy Hamilton welcomed everyone to the meeting saying that the main aim is communication, and that this is the start of a two-way conversation. The wider work will involve many subject groups so there will be plenty of opportunity to get involved in the things that interest you. This is the early stage of setting up a steering group to lead the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) process. The first phase is to identify priorities and vision for the Weymouth area, with input from residents, businesses and community groups.

Participants were invited to introduce themselves explaining their interest in the Neighbourhood Plan. See notes above.

## 2. Neighbourhood Plan

Slides are attached to the notes.

Martha Covell detailed the first steps:

- Need to start with a visioning exercise and the aims of the group. A soft launch of the questionnaire has been made this week and this will be promoted to the public in the new year.
- This is a larger NP due to the size of the area.
- Also need to look at existing policies, including those strategic ones that the Weymouth NP must comply with. Dorset Council (DC) Local Plan Consultation Options goes to Cabinet at DC tomorrow (08/12/20)
- We will be looking at what evidence exists and what other evidence we need to gather. The main one that has been identified is a Housing Needs Assessment and this is being done using funding now. A character analysis will be done in January.
- We need to be careful not to reinvent the wheel, but we need to remain relevant to planning. The NP is a planning document, not an area management plan.
- We are aiming for adoption of the Weymouth NP in 2023. It will take at least 2 years to draft the plan. The representatives from the Sutton Poyntz NP group felt that it could take a lot longer.

Responses to questions:

- It is not more complicated to write a NP that encompasses an existing NP as these would be adopted into the wider work. The SPNP will remain valid through this process.
- Changes to the planning legislation is planned but this will take at least another year to become law and should not affect the NP process, if anything the role of NPs could be strengthened.
- The slides will be shared with this group and sent round with the notes.
- The locality website also details a lot of information. [www.locality.org.uk](http://www.locality.org.uk)

## 3. Local Plan

Martha Covell took attendees through an in-session questionnaire to consider views on Adopted Local Plan policies. The questionnaire covered local planning policies, aspirations and levels of involvement. The results will be made available to the group

when the responses are collated and will be used to shape priorities for the emerging Steering Group.

Responses to questions:

- We will be able to comment on housing commuted payments when we have the needs assessment.
- Weymouth is in Tier 1 for housing and this usually cannot be changed once the Local Plan has been adopted, but we are able to challenge it.
- It can be difficult to include transport in a NP but not impossible, issues must be detailed in terms of planning policies.
- A NP could add detail to the LP, for example this could be in terms of design policies for employment sites etc
- We would look to other coastal sites for best practice.

#### **4. Engagement**

##### **Engagement and making online work**

- This would be much easier without lockdown so we need to be creative as how we engage with residents. A simple questionnaire will be going live soon and will be fully promoted in the New Year.
- We could have walking tours and photo safaris in the future which would be socially distanced.
- The representatives from the Sutton Poyntz NP group felt that the character assessment could be used to focus engagement.
- We could use crowd-sourcing principles to spread the word and use competitions. Online photo competition?
- Need to ensure we have common terminology and explain technical information, so people have a shared understanding.

#### **5. Next steps**

##### **Steering Group**

- Looking for 10 or so Members but membership may change over the months. Four could be Councillors but the rest need to be from the communities and businesses. There will also be a wider stakeholder's group.
- The Town Council will provide the admin support.
- The group will have agreed Terms of Reference and will probably meet every one/two months.
- Membership of the Steering Group will be determined by the group itself and if too many people wish to be involved then people will be invited to self-select to the thematic groups.
- Call for area champions to ensure that all neighbourhoods are covered.
- Timetable is ambitious, if there is to be full dialogue with all communities across Weymouth

## **Resources**

- Key resources and links will be online including at Dorset Council and Weymouth Town Council website pages. They will also be discussed at Steering Group meetings.
- Please be reassured that we don't all need to be experts on the datasets as we will have experts to look at these for us.
- The IMD is only a few years old and contains a great deal of data but can also be visually viewed from Dorset Explorer

Cllr Hamilton thanked everyone for attending and looked forward to seeing the responses to the questionnaire and meeting again in the New Year.

## **ACTION POINTS:**

1. WTC: to publish Neighbourhood Plan webpage with link to survey
2. WTC: to promote survey in New Year
3. All: to share link to WTC survey to contacts. Word of mouth!
4. All: to consider if you can act as an Area Champion, or recommend an area champion
5. WTC: to set up draft Terms of Reference for review by group

## **Date of next meeting:**

Monday 18 January, 7.00pm, online Zoom