



Neighbourhood Plan Meeting

Zoom meeting: Monday 18 January 2021, 7pm.

Present – WTC

Cllr Lucy Hamilton
Cllr David Northam
Cllr Jan Bergman
Cllr Pete Barrow
Cllr David Gray
Rosie Osborne, Project Officer
Martha Covell, ECA Lead Consultant
Rachel Noke, ECA Consultant

Present – Public and group representatives

Nigel Sims-Duff - qualified Landscape Architect living and working in Weymouth
Paul Barber - Local Resident, lived in Weymouth 37 years now in Upwey, ex-Services, keen on web-based approaches
Sandie Wilson, local resident works at Portland Port, interested in Environment/Cycle/Walking
Maxine Foster - Local resident, trustee of Civic Society, advocate opportunities for young people especially employment and housing
Graham Perry - Weymouth BID Director and BID Representative, also member of Weymouth Museum and Civic Society
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
Rob Tripp - Landsdowne Square Residents Association, ex-Services, Planning experience
Janet Davies - From Dorset Ramblers interested in pedestrianisation, walking and green spaces
Tony King - The Upwey Society, advocate for local amenities and Affordable Housing
Haydn Beazer - Property developer wants to see Weymouth prospering
Phill Watts - Previous experience as Planning Officer, now Planning Consultant
Sue Prescott - Chair, Weymouth Area Development Trust – making Weymouth better place
Steve Elsworth - Chair of Friends of Castle Cove Beach group, keen to get messaging right
Peter Dickenson – Local resident from Preston
Michael Byatt - Resident, ex-councillor, wants best NP
Colin Marsh - Sutton Poyntz Neighbourhood Plan
Tracey Barter - Town resident working in Marketing – happy to help with messaging
Nicholas Spence - From Weymouth & Portland Chamber of Commerce

1. Introduction

and

background

Lucy Hamilton welcomed everyone and explained that this was the second Neighbourhood Plan meeting, with the primary aim to set up a Steering Group for the project. Once this has been established, the first Steering Group meeting will be held in March and subsequent meetings will be every 1-2 months. This is a continuous process and ideas will be welcome throughout.

New participants were invited to introduce themselves explaining their interest in the Neighbourhood Plan – see responses above.

Actions from the last meeting

1. WTC: to publish Neighbourhood Plan webpage with link to survey.

The webpage is now live:

<https://www.weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan>

2. WTC: to promote survey in New Year.

This was promoted through the Dorset Echo and Weymouth Town Council platforms

3. All: to share link to WTC survey to contacts. Word of mouth!

Please continue to do this.

4. All: to consider if you can act as an Area Champion, or recommend an area champion

Please contact us if you would like to act as an Area Champion or can recommend somebody.

5. WTC: to set up draft Terms of Reference for review by group.

This has been drafted and circulated round.

2. Progress Update

David Northam provided the progress update:

a) Survey

So far has had 257 responses. The aim is to get above 500.

b) Tech Support- Housing Needs Assessment.

This support has come through Locality from a company called AECOM. They will be producing a Housing Needs Assessment which will outline the types of housing that is required in Weymouth. This information will be supplied to us by April 2021.

c) Dorset Council's new Local Plan Consultation

Dorset Council have launched their new Local Plan Consultation today. There are 8 weeks to respond. The link is here:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-local-plan.aspx>

d) Webpage/Facebook

The webpage is now live:

<https://www.weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan>

A Facebook page will also be set up in the coming weeks. Once working groups are established, it may be easier to communicate via WhatsApp. This can be explored at a later date.

Funding, as well as the technical support, has been obtained from Locality who get a grant directly from the Government.

Questions

Will the housing needs assessment supersede all current figures?

Likely to be a similar figure but it's useful to identify type of housing.

Can we use message groups to pass information on?

Yes, please do. No problem to forward any of this information on.

Is it overcomplex, essentially being borough wide? Can we also keep an eye on Chickerell and Portland plans?

Yes, we consider these very important, want to be inclusive hence covering the whole of Weymouth Town Council area and will liaise with adjacent areas.

What happens if our figures differ from Dorset Council figures for the housing numbers?

Dorset Council will supply the required number, but our opportunity is to identify the need of types of housing.

AECOM unlikely to challenge the number Dorset Council supply.

3. Engagement Strategy

Martha Covell introduced this item and discussed slides (attached). There are 8 stages to producing a Neighbourhood Plan and it is likely to take 2-3 years.

Each stage requires some form of consultation which will be fed back to the Steering Group. It is important that the Steering Group represents a broad range of people. The Steering Group does not need to be fixed- could be a 12-month involvement.

1. Drafting vision and scoping out the plan

What are people's aims and objectives?

2. Roadshow- real events across 5 location (including schools). Consulting on draft vision and character of Weymouth. What is important to you? What would you change?

3. Themed working groups- defined by consultation.

These will dictate planning policies.

4. Policy check- probably online questionnaire

5. Pre-submission Stage

This is a statutory process and takes 6 weeks where feedback and responses will be obtained.

Questions

Has anyone looked at demographics of the survey responses?

No analysis has been done on this yet. We do certainly want to represent the whole of Weymouth.

Does Martha have terms of reference for the Working Groups? Don't they have a role from Stage 2? Shouldn't they feed back to the Steering group?

We can set up the themed Working Groups now, previously done this a bit later on in practical sense when we can produce papers and work with them. If we have enough people to participate and chair each group, then yes.

Clear synergy between Working Group and Steering Group- the chair would need to be on Steering Group in order to feedback to group.

The message needs to be clear. Especially for those who have a negative view. Why should someone take part in this?

Neighbourhood Plan is the chance to have a positive input- to create a positive framework.

Message needs more work.

Could a member of the public come up with a strapline?

Yes, input on this would be beneficial.

We need to plug it from a local base point- many people worry decisions have been taken out of our hands.

This is an opportunity to have a say on issues that affect residents of Weymouth.

Martha Covell explained that the vision is also a critical part of the Neighbourhood Plan and we will be seeking opinions and ideas on this aspect.

4. Steering Group Organisation Structure & Selection Process

David Northam presented on this item explaining the organisation structure. (see slides attached).

Steering Group membership will consist of:

- Chair elected by SG Members
- Vice Chair elected by SG Members
- Neighbourhood Plan Coordinator (non-voting)
- 5 members across geographical area
- 1 member of Sutton Poyntz Neighbourhood Plan Forum
- 4 Council members of Weymouth Town Council
(Total 10)

Roles

David Northam presented a number of roles for which we would seek a Steering Group Representative:

1. Urban Areas Community Representative
2. The Villages/Sutton Poyntz Community Representative

3. The Semi Urban Areas Community Representative
4. Business Representative
5. Environment Representative
6. Tbd, in discussion, Representative
7. to 10. Council Member Representatives

Nominations

Please nominate yourself by submitting one side of A4 on why you would be suited to this role stating background, why qualified for the role and experience and skills by **1st February 2021**.

David Northam invited suggestions for what Role number 6 above should cover – see below for summary.

Questions

If there more than 4 town councillor nominations how will it be decided?

There will be some form of vote for this.

Will the Dorset Plan be agreed before 2023?

No. The plan is that the Dorset Local Plan will be agreed in Spring 2023. Ours will be agreed shortly after and ours will be in finer detail and specific to Weymouth.

How will council members work with in this? How will the structure work?

If there was no one able to chair an area- we might ask a council representative to lead this group.

How will themed Working Groups work if not represented at Steering Group?

Working Group chairs will have to present, or a Steering Group member would be asked to join one of these themed Working Groups.

Should members be geographical representatives?

It might be better to cover areas/themes instead.

We need to consult before we can decide on themes.

Different ages have different requirements. Can we ensure that we consult with a balance of gender, age, etc?

It is a challenge but absolutely we will try different ways to engage.

Younger age groups may not have time to participate at Steering Group level, but they will be able to have their voice in other ways.

Councillors are multi skilled and could cover multiple areas, not just wards. Could young people from Weymouth College be given the opportunity to be on the Steering Group? Also why stick to 10 members?

Agree that councillors could cover themes, rather than be limited to just representing wards. And likewise, non-councillors representing wards. Great idea, we could certainly ask re: younger people.

Steering Group needs to be kept at workable size. 20-25 too many. 10-12 max. Comment that young people might be busy home-schooling.

All councillors will be expected to be involved on some level as champions.

David Northam Summarised suggestions for additional role:

- Heritage
- Social Enterprise
- Education & Skills Training
- Young Families and Youth

It was generally agreed that WTC should explore getting a young people representative.

Submit for nomination of one of the roles or if not one of the roles, submit what you would like to be involved in, in particular a working group.

5. Steering Group Terms of Reference

Lucy Hamilton talked through the slides on this (slides attached and Terms of Reference document)

Themed groups not set-in stone yet.

Questions

With reference to no 7. There is no step to determine the metrics in the scope of plan for each of the issues. There isn't a step to determine the issues.

This will come as part of analysis and formation of policies. It is a refining process. Start with general aims and vision, then the themes/issues will come from this.

6. Next Steps

- Please keep spreading the word and asking contacts to complete the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/X69QYPT>.
- Nominate yourself as a Steering Group member by **1st February 2021**.
- Register interest in membership of Working Groups (Themed Groups yet to be decided).
- WTC NP team to explore getting young people's representative.
- Worth familiarising yourself with the Dorset Council Local Plan: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/dorset-council-local-plan.aspx>
- ECA will analyse survey results.

Meeting closed at 21.37, Lucy Hamilton thanked everyone for attendance.

Next meeting: Monday 22nd February 2021 at 7pm via zoom.