

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting

Zoom meeting: Monday 17th May 2020, 7pm.

Present

Cllr Lucy Hamilton (LH)
Cllr David Northam (DN)
Rosie Osborne, WTC Project Officer (RO)
Rachel Nokes, ECA Consultant (RN)
Cllr Pete Barrow (PB)
Nick Spence (NS)
Phil Watts (PW)
Robert Cheeseman (RC)
Lara Wood (LW)
Sandie Wilson (SW)
Cllr Ann Weaving (AW)
Peter Dye (PD) Deputy
Penny Quilter (PQ) Deputy

Apologies

Colin Marsh (CM)

1. Project Update

- ECA Contract has been extended.
- Locality end of year grant report in progress
- WADT invite to talk at Forum meeting on 14/06/21.
- Dorset Local Plan- approx. 7,000 responses
LH and DN attended meeting to discuss this and how Neighbourhood Plan members can be involved.
- Government White Paper is out for consultation.

2. Vision, Mission and Themes Document

The Steering Group and the wider Neighbourhood Forum were sent the report with feedback requested- comments have been incorporated into the document and a revised version created.

RN talked through the report, focusing on the sections that have been changed:

- **Our Vision:**
By 2038, Weymouth will be a resilient coastal community with a diverse range of jobs and homes which meet the needs of residence for present generations without compromising the needs of future generations. The unique identities of our local neighbourhoods will be attractive to all age groups and will foster healthy and happy lifestyles.
- **Our Mission:**
To create a stimulating, attractive, safe, and accessible town, and harbour where the unique coastal environment is celebrated. We will promote balanced developments that respects Weymouth's unique heritage and rural landscape setting, attract investment in our natural capital, and embraces creativity, technology, and innovation for the community to thrive in a sustainable environment.

- **Revised Themes**

Neighbourhoods
Homes
Jobs
Sustainable environments
Landscape and green spaces

- **Theme 1: Neighbourhoods [Local]**

Aim 1. Celebrate the unique character and culture of each local neighbourhood and respond to their needs to enable our policies to be applied in a sensitive way, relevant to the locality ensuring resilient sustainable communities for all ages.

Aim 2. Allocate sustainable sites for new homes and jobs which are within walking distance to town or a neighbourhood centre, thereby supporting local facilities, shops, and services, promoting recreational activity and well-being.

Aim 3. Protect and enhance the distinctive historic character of the Conservation Areas within Weymouth and its many architecturally significant and listed buildings, streets, squares, open spaces, and the wider public realm for their vital importance to the identity and heritage of the individual neighbourhoods and town as a whole.

- **Theme 2: Homes [Strategic]**

Aim 4. Provide a broad mix of homes, which align with housing need and give priority to the needs of current and future residents and all parts of the community, with emphasis on social and affordable homes that reflect the character and appearance of the area.

Aim 5. Support and encourage the reuse of brownfield sites as well as community-led, self-build and innovative development schemes and tenancies as ways of achieving sustainable developments that are affordable for residents.

- **Theme 3: Jobs [Strategic]**

Aim 6. Make Weymouth a more self-sufficient community and reduce commuting by preserving and enhancing employment provision for a diverse range of jobs, training, and skills throughout the year.

Aim 7. Preserve and enhance Weymouth's unique built and cultural heritage (harbour side and beach front), maritime heritage, leisure, and entertainment offering, recognising its needs as a desirable, year-round, visitor destination.

Aim 8. Encourage the creation of jobs and training that support independent enterprises and encourage creativity, technology, innovation, and green jobs as well as jobs that build on farming, food production, the coastal and maritime location.

- **Theme 4: Sustainable environments
[Strategic]**

Aim 9. Make step changes to ensure that all development by 2038 is net-zero carbon, making the best use of land, maximising the reuse of buildings and brownfield development.

Aim 10. Achieve the highest design standards for all new development, with a focus on energy conservation and each site generating a portion of on-site energy.

Aim 11. Reduce car movements and encourage sustainable transport modes in Local Neighbourhoods, particularly Weymouth's town centre, harbour, and beach by implementing various traffic management measures.

Aim 12. Plan for a greater use of sustainable transport, by providing facilities for bikes, scooters and electric cars and boats such as charging points, cycle racks and comfortable bus stops, supporting projects that help travel in an environmentally friendly way and reviewing car parking standards if appropriate.

- **Theme 5: Landscape and green spaces [Strategic]**

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(For full comparison, between original and revised versions, please see slides)

Note

Concerns expressed about the lack of supporting reports for some of the existing Conservation Areas, e.g., Sutton Poyntz/Preston.

ACTION

Councillors to investigate history and availability of supporting reports. Steering Group should consider whether reports should be commissioned - where they do not exist or fail to offer the required level of detail.

3. Discussion of Themed Working Groups

- LH asked that members of the Steering Group provide two preferred themes for being a part of the working groups, to enable sufficient representation.
- NP Forum members will also be invited to join themed working groups.
- RN said that the purpose would be to write and review policies in line with the vision and aims.
- PQ asked what Engagement was going to be done and SW asked how themed working groups would work.

4. Engagement Plan

May-Aug NP Awareness Raising Events

- AW invited NP members to attend Littlemoor Event.
- Mayor's Picnic 6th June 2021
- Tumbledown 26th June 2021
- Picnic in the Park events July-August

RN will confirm David Hawes Urban Design Consultant involvement to provide a series of workshops in September, including ones involving schools.

5. Any Other Business

A request for a schedule/GANNT chart to be published on Teams for everyone to access and understand the process.

ACTION

RN to update schedule and send to RO to circulate.

6. Next steps

- Read Vision, Mission & Themes document
 - Agree who will sit on Working Groups and how they might work.
 - Arrange photo safaris.
 - Set up Forum members on Teams.
 - Consider SG/F/WG inter-communication needs.
 - Prepare agenda for next NP Forum 14th June.
 - Appoint a Steering Group chair
 - Circulate revised Vision, Mission & Themes document
 - Prepare 'Call for Sites'.
 - Request 'Site Allocation Tech Support'
 - Submit Vision Mission & Themes document to Council for endorsement and publish.
 - Promote Np website and recruit new members to the Forum Group.
- LH closed meeting at 20:59

Next meeting for the Neighbourhood Plan Forum will be Monday 14th June 2021 at 7pm via Microsoft Teams.

Next meeting for the Steering Group will be Monday 12th July 2021 at 7pm via Microsoft Teams.