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**NOTES OF MEETING**

**Meeting:** Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting

**Date & Time:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024 at 7.00pm

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

**PRESENT:**

**Chair:** Cllr David Northam

**Steering Group Members:** Colin Marsh, Howard Atkinson, Jon Orrell, Michael Bevan, Penny Quilter, Phil Watts, Rob Cheeseman

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

**Special Attendance:** Cllr Gill Taylor – Cabinet Member of Health & Housing, Andrew Billany – Head of Housing

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION	BY WHOM
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies:</b></p> <p>David welcomed everyone and made introductions for Cllr Taylor and Andrew Billany.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Paul Barber and Rob Cheeseman.</p>		
2.	<p><b>Minutes &amp; Matters Arising:</b></p> <p>Minutes of last meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> September were approved.</p> <p>No matters arising.</p>	Upload onto Website	Michele
3.	<p><b>Visit by Dorset Council – Gill Taylor &amp; Andrew Billany:</b></p> <p>David introduced the item explaining that it was hoped that we could be able to get an update on the direction of travel from DC on housing, and concerns on how they will meet their housing targets.</p> <p>Cllr Taylor informed the group that DC had agreed their Housing Strategy in December 2023 which will run until 2029. DC are in Stage 1 which has 22 work streams.</p> <p>Cllr Taylor explained that meeting the housing need is a big issue, but this is down to Planning and lack of affordable housing. The government is pushing for more social housing, but it is unclear where the land is to build these.</p> <p>DC Housing are keen to engage and work in partnership with the town and parish councils, which they are aware has been lacking in the past. They are also making better use of their current housing, they have a statutory obligation first to people who require supported housing, and care leavers. Explanations of what a these are for those who might not be aware.</p>		

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	<p><b>Supported Living:</b> Those who need support in their day-to-day care. There is need to determine how many are needed, what types are needed and what happens when a partner of those who require the support are no longer here and their partner might not want to live in a supported living environment.</p> <p><b>Care Leavers:</b> These are young people who are in the care system and the LA have a care of duty for them until they are 25 even though funding for them ceases at age 18. A lot of them still require care into their whole adulthood so need to have place for them to move to.</p> <p>Members of the SG asked a number of questions on Affordable Housing provision, support for Community Land Trusts, availability of Dorset Council brownfield sites and sought clarification on points of detail affecting proposed WNP policies.</p>		
4.	<p><b>Aims &amp; Objectives:</b></p> <p>Colin had done a piece of work going through Aims &amp; Objectives and noted that some of the text had gone missing between the original version of the post consultation plan that our Consultant had drafted for the Reg 14 version and final publication. Given the input from the public this needed to be corrected in the submission version of the WNP.</p> <p>David wanted to thank Colin for all his hard work and asked the group if they were happy for the revised Aims &amp; Objectives that Colin had produced.</p> <p>Howard suggested some minor amendments and corrections relating to sites and wildlife policies. Howard was asked to identify the specific changes in order that these could be addressed by the Chair/Vice-Chair.</p>		
5.	<p><b>Feedback from Full Council Meeting &amp; Way Forward:</b></p> <p><b>Feedback from Full Council Meeting:</b> David informed the members that although requested that a closed session be made available to update the councillors on the progress made and decisions on changes to the plan it was decided by WTC that an alternative approach was preferred and a brief update was given. ???</p> <p>It has been agreed that the aim is to publish the draft of the submission version plan on 12<sup>th</sup> November in knowledge that there might still be some tweaks to layout etc before it goes to Dorset Council in late November / early December.</p> <p>A drop-in has been agreed for 14<sup>th</sup> November, 11am-6pm to allow residents the opportunity to come and ask any questions and clarify changes that have been made following the Reg 14 consultation. If residents want to make any comments on the submission plan, they will have the opportunity when Dorset Council goes out to the</p>		

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	<p>Regulation 16 Consultation in early next year. This drop-in event will be held in the Council Chamber at the Commercial Road offices and the Chair asked that all SG members commit to attending at some time during the day and to please send Michele their availability.</p> <p>The Full Council meeting is to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> November and the Chair again asked members of the steering group to attend if possible and to consider addressing the meeting. If you wish to speak, please let Jane know by no later than Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p><b>Non-Policy Reg 14 Feedback Updates:</b> This is a document which just outlines the necessary changes needed on the non-policy sections taking into account the feedback comments from the Reg 14. It shows how we have taken onboard comments from residents. Most tasks are being undertaken by <del>to</del> David, Colin and Michele but if anyone feels that they can contribute please let them know.</p> <p><b>Checklist of Actions:</b> Colin update that the project team (David, Colin and Michele) are meeting on a weekly basis to look at the work still required to get to the stage where we have a submission version of the plan. Similarly if anyone feels that they can contribute or take on a task then please let the team know.</p> <p><b>Proposed Policy Changes &amp; Supporting Text:</b> Michele just updated the group that she has started on a draft submission plan inputting all the changes agreed but there is still work to be done on the supporting text so if anyone has any capacity it will be welcome.</p>		
6.	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b></p> <p>David updated that he had a conversation with Paul Derrien and Sarah Howe regarding a Local Connections Policy which originally DC had advised was unlawful to include but has since agreed it is not the case. It has been agreed to go ahead with it and leave to the examiner to decide.</p> <p>Following the Full Council meeting it has been agreed to try meet with Cllr O’Leary again to listen to his concerns. Agreed that the whole steering group or as many as possible attend this. Jane will facilitate the meeting, and Colin will chair the meeting.</p> <p>Dialogues has continued with Dorset Council and landowners ref Site Allocations ahead of publishing the revised Plan</p> <p>David advised that he had attend the Civic Society Talk on Local Plan briefing from Hilary Jordan, Head of Planning Policy at Dorset Council. It unfortunately did not highlight anything new. The Civic Society have asked for a meeting once the Submission Plan has been submitted.</p>		

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	Discussion on the process to be followed for the drop-in session.		
7.	<p><b>Dates of Future Meetings:</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b> Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024  <b>Time:</b> 7pm  <b>Venue:</b> Council Chamber</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Phil has given his apologies for the next meeting and the Full Council as he will be away.</p>		

Meeting ended at 9:04pm