

Steering Committee Meeting 17 February 2021

Present:

Apologies:

Cllr John Crawford Cllr Jean Curteis Irene Dibben Joseph Franklin Siggi Nepp Sue Quinton Stephen Sidebottom Graham Smith Helen Whitehead Cllr Kate Walder

Also in attendance:

Richard Masefield Tony Fullwood

01. Minutes from last Meeting

Minutes of 03 February 2021 were accepted and approved.

02. Draft Plan

Siggi reported that Tony has proposed to deliver his plan content to the SC in three separate chunks, to correspond with the next three SC meetings (3rd, 17th, 31st March). The SC will then seek to approve the consolidated draft Plan (including any amendments) at the SC meeting on 7th April. Thereafter, a full copy will be sent to the full town council with a resolution requesting the commencement of the Reg 14 public consultation.

(Action: Tony to forward Plan contents to SC in three chunks)

John explained the SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) screening process to be undertaken by Ashford LPA. He emphasised that this is an essential part of the NP process prior to the start of the Reg 14 consultation. NP drafts will be sent to Ashford as they become available. Once the screen opinion has been written up by Ashford, it is understood they then consult with English Heritage, Natural England, Environment Agency before formally issuing the screen statement.

(Action: John to forward the future versions of the plan to Ashford)



There was a discussion about side projects that are connected to, but not part of the Plan. John said that these could be referred to in an annex to the Plan, which sits outside the statutory development plan. Tony agreed this approach was important, especially if they were connected to the Infrastructure Policy within the Plan and may require funding in the future. He asked the Working Groups to produce a list of projects related to their areas, with an indication of whether they have been costed at this stage. Stephen suggested that the SC should have a separate discussion about what types of projects are being considered, and how they are presented to the public. Irene added that the projects should not detract from the Plan itself. Tony suggested that once the list of projects is drawn up, they can be discussed in more depth at the next SC meeting.

(Action: Working Groups to forward a list of projects to Stephen for discussion at next SC meeting)

Tony pointed out that in relation to the list of NP consultees, it is good practice to include neighbouring parishes. Tony also asked about resident associations within the town.

(Action: Irene to ensure neighbouring parishes are added to the list; Irene to check whether all known local residents' groups have been included)

A discussion was led by Siggi regarding the Conservation Area Management Plan (CAMP), which is not part of the NP. It would sit as one of the projects and maybe referred to under the Heritage section of the NP. John explained discussions have been held between TTC and Ashford on the principal of conducting a CAMP. Further discussions on the timing and approach of a CAMP have still to be discussed.

Tony left the meeting.

03. Letter to landowners

John's revised letter had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Reg 14 dates still need to be confirmed and a list of the LGS landowners is required. Richard commented that that the precise sites need to be identified. He also noted that not all landowners may want to submit their comments electronically; John agreed and said that he would add an option to submit comments in hard copy.

(Action: John to review Richard's comments and adjust the letter accordingly; Richard to supply a list of landowners to John)

04. Working Groups update

Biodiversity: Richard reported that Tony has made a few small amendments to the wording of the Biodiversity evidence paper. One map is still to be added, supplied by KWT. He expects



this shortly. Richard also mentioned that the Biodiversity side project will be called the Nature Recovery Action Plan.

(Action: Richard to send final version of evidence paper to Siggi)

Local Green Spaces: Sue reported the Open and Recreational Spaces paper is nearing completion.

(Action: Sue to send final version of Open Spaces paper to Siggi)

Landscape: Siggi has sent Gravity her Landscape evidence documents and is awaiting mockups showing how these will look in Gravity's proposed style format.

Design Code: Siggi will be meeting AECOM on 18th Feb for a progress update.

(Action: Siggi to continue to liaise with Gravity and AECOM)

Routeways: Nothing to report

Local Economy: The papers are complete, subject to any final comments that may arise from the Business Needs survey.

Heritage: This paper is complete. The accompanying map of heritage assets is due to be completed in early March.

(Action: Helen to complete assets map by 3rd March)

Comms: Irene has circulated an update on Comms actions to the SC. Siggi reported that she had attended a meeting with FU (on 17 Feb) in which FU asked to have sight of any articles going out for publication in local newsletters etc so that they can approve the content. This would include any emails sent out from the NP email account. Irene said that the date for the start of Reg 14 consultation would determine when leaflets needed to be printed and distributed. Siggi pointed out that they need to be designed first and that this should be looked at in the next couple of weeks. Content should be agreed with FU in advance to allow time for printing etc.

(Action: Irene to draft wording for Reg 14 leaflets for discussion with FU)

05. Treasurer's report: Nothing new to report. A brief discussion was held regarding consultants' fees.

(Action: Graham to check that Helen's invoice has been passed for payment; Graham to confirm with FU in writing that the SC is happy with their payment proposal; Kate to ask Richard E to alert her if there is a likelihood of SC incurring any additional charges)



06. AOB: John and Kate have agreed it would be helpful to provide an update on the NP to the TTC Planning Committee. Siggi has agreed to do this at the TTC PC meeting on 1st March.

John queried whether the SC had agreed to register non-designated heritage assets with KCC that were not already registered. Stephen responded that he thought a map of these sites would suffice.

John mentioned that the Government is consulting on changes to the NPPF. He will be asking comments from TTC councillors and extended that invitation to members of this SC.

Siggi mentioned that she would like a good quality aerial photo of the parish for the Plan. Helen suggested contacting a local resident who has a plane.

(Action: Siggi to follow up with local resident)

Richard mentioned that in addition to the material he has provided for the biodiversity evidence paper he has also forwarded suggestions for biodiversity policies to Tony.

The next SC meeting will be on 3rd March at 2pm.