



Steering Committee Meeting 17 March 2021

Present:

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

Apologies:

Graham Smith
Helen Whitehead

Also, in attendance:

Richard Masefield
Tony Fullwood

01. Minutes from last Meeting

Minutes of 03 March 2021 were accepted and approved.

02. Matters arising

None

03. NP draft chapters

The chapter dealing with the Environment was discussed first. Tony explained that the chapter was not yet complete and that the second half would be circulated before the next meeting. He assured the group that the Plan as a whole would follow the format laid out in the draft Plan structure, which the SC has already approved, meaning that the 'green' policies would be presented first.

Sue mentioned that the Recreation Ground was incorrectly described as a Local Green Space, and Richard pointed out that Bells Allotments should be Bells Lane Allotments. Richard also asked for TEN NP2 to include hedges, in line with the wording in TEN NP1.

There were no other comments.

The draft chapter was approved subject to the amendments above.

(Action: Tony to update the text as agreed)

The draft Local Economy chapter was discussed. The general view was that it was excellent. Tony explained that one of its purposes was to reflect the changing nature of the town



centre, particularly in light of the pandemic. It also aims to acknowledge the NPPF objective of retaining the vitality of town centres.

There was a query about the omission of farm shops, garden centres and community buildings in the paper. The committee agreed that in the absence of evidence which supported a requirement for specific policies relating to these establishments, they should not be included in the Plan.

The draft chapter was approved.

Tony reported that the following topics would be addressed in the next draft chapters:

- Green environment
- Housing
- General NP background information
- Planning strategy, i.e. built-up confines
- Design Code

(Action: Tony to circulate final drafts before the next meeting)

Following a brief discussion regarding timeline for the completion of the Plan a target date of second week of May for Reg 14 was considered as realistic.

Kate asked when the draft chapters would be ready for FU to review, and who would be sending them to her. It was agreed that FU should be sent the document as a whole once all draft chapters have been completed.

(Action: Tony to send all completed chapters to Sue, who will forward them to Kate and John for distribution to FU and ABC)

04. Projects list

Siggi noted that the list prepared by Stephen had generated a lot of feedback from the SC. One concern was that residents might think the projects were part of the NP statutory development plan. A distinction needed to be drawn between specific policies in the Plan and projects that might emanate from the Plan. There was some discussion about how to manage residents' expectations and be clear about the ownership of particular projects. Tony suggested that the list could be worded in a way that offered to discuss or investigate, rather than commit to, certain projects. He also commented that a more generic list might be less problematic; a very detailed list would inevitably highlight omissions.

John pointed out that the projects are not part of the statutory development plan; he therefore suggested that a TTC Corporate Plan could be a mechanism for taking suggestions for projects forward. Tony said that a Corporate Plan could be put forward as a project in itself.

Tony suggested projects could be tied to the themes - chapter headings - in the Plan. This would provide more context to the projects. He also suggested sieving the list to identify projects that would require S106 funding - these could be linked to the Infrastructure policy.



(Action: Tony to review list to identify potential S106 projects; Stephen to make the list more generic and reorganise so that it coordinates with Plan chapters; Kate to send a list of relevant project stakeholders/consultees to the SC)

05. Working Groups update

Biodiversity: Richard asked Tony if he was ready to sign off the Biodiversity evidence paper. Tony promised to get back to Richard this week.

(Action: Richard to send final version of evidence paper to Siggie, subject to Tony's approval)

Landscape: Siggie reported that there is still work to be done on the Design Code and a further iteration of it is required.

Siggie reported that Gravity is continuing to make progress formatting the evidence papers.

(Action: Tony and Siggie to continue reviewing the draft Design Code; Siggie to liaise with AECOM regarding a completion date for the final iteration of the Code)

Tony left the meeting.

Local Green Spaces: Nothing to report.

Routeways: Nothing to report.

Local Economy: Nothing to report.

Heritage: The heritage assets map is being finalised.

Comms: Kate reported that once the Plan timeline is known for definite the publicity and social media announcements for the Reg 14 consultation will be finalised with FU. There was a brief discussion regarding the Consultation Statement and when it needs to be produced - Kate will double-check.

(Action: Kate to confirm date for Consultation Statement)

06. Action list: Irene reported that a number of Comms actions have now been superseded.

(Action: Irene to confirm completed actions with Sue)

07. Treasurer's report: Siggie noted that the additional work on the Design Code would impact on the budget contingency.

07. AOB: Richard referred to a recent CPRE survey which found that a high proportion of respondents were keen to see green spaces enhanced and include more wildlife, trees and hedges. A significant number of respondents preferred natural, wilder green spaces to



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manicured spaces. This reaffirms Richard's view that wildlife and biodiversity should be at the core of the NP. Siggie noted that Tent 1B could certainly take on board some of these ideas.

Richard also reported that next week he is going to be involved in a wildlife study of the walled garden behind the high street and will report findings to the SC.

(Action: Sue to forward CPRE survey to the SC)

The next meeting will be on 31st March.