

Wolston Neighbourhood Plan

Minutes of Co-ordination Group meeting 22nd June 2021, 6.30pm

Present: Cllr Bob Grainger (Housing and Economy and Employment), Clare Malyon (Built Environment, Natural Environment and Economy and Employment), Debbie Pritchard (Community Sports Leisure & Well-being), Tim Willis (Project Manager & CG Chair), Jock Rainey (SG Chair) by invitation and Maria Meede (Minutes Secretary)

The Meeting was held in the Conference Room at The Priory.

1. Introductions and Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Tracie Ball (Finance & Communications) due to ill-health. The apologies were accepted.

2. CG Next Steps

Mr Willis opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending, and he explained that this meeting was purely to discuss the 'next steps' required to be taken by the CG, in order to move forward with the plan. Mr Willis confirmed that the feedback received from RBC in relation to the plan was much better than expected, and meant that the plan was closer to completion than originally thought.

Mr Willis wanted to ensure that those present from the CG were confident in 'tweaking' their own sections, and taking the plan to the next stage. He also noted that, in relation to the planning application on the allotment land, the Planning Inspectorate had visited the site, reviewed all the information, and made a decision based on all the information to hand. He felt that although it was an emotive area, it was time for the NDP as a whole to put it behind them, amend the plan accordingly and move forward. Mrs Pritchard advised that it would be her section which is affected, and she would review the S. 106 Agreement and possibly some other information and documents. Cllr Grainger offered to get an electronic and hard copy of this document to Mrs Prichard, along with any other information she may need.

A discussion took place about the version of the document everyone was working from, to confirm everyone was working from the relevant version (and it was confirmed that the version to work from was the version received from APS Draft V1.94, and that the copy commented sent to RBC for comment was a clean version of this without the comments from APS). It was also noted that some of the comments from RBC are contrary to comments made by APS, and it was agreed that the comments from the Planning Authority should take precedence. The document, once finalised, will also need proof reading as throughout the document there are inconsistencies with the way in which things are expressed. It was recognised that at the current time this is a 'working document' and due to the fact there are different authors for different sections, there will be differences in style and content.

More pictures are required throughout the document, and it was noted that there are different sources to go to in order to get pictures, and a discussion also took place about the possibility of using a drone to get aerial images if required. Some of the NDP budget may also be required to get professional pictures taken if felt necessary, and Cllr Miss Ball will be asked about funding for this.

Cllr Grainger said he was happy to work on his section alone, but felt it was important to also work as a team and include other members at some stage. Mr Willis agreed, and said this would be beneficial once the initial work was done, and Mrs Malyon suggested a CG workshop day would be a good way forward.

It was suggested that the Character Assessments and Local Listings sections need more work and consideration, and Mrs Malyon agreed to get a list together of what is currently completed and she will share this with the CG, so they all know what work is left to do.

The Economy and Employment section was discussed (this section had been taken over by Cllr Grainger and Mrs Malyon when Mr Smith left the group). Cllr Grainger felt they had taken it as far as they could with their knowledge, and would require extra support for this section. Mr Rainey agreed to assist and look at this section, and Mr Willis said he would like Cllr Grainger to focus on Housing as this is such a large area. Cllr Grainger and Mr Rainey will meet at some point to hand over/discuss what is required.

Mr Willis then wished to focus on timescales, and recognised different members may require different amounts of time to complete their sections – due to other commitments and also the amount of work required in their area. He asked each member to advise him by the end of this week (Sunday 27th) how long they think they will need – and he stressed he wanted realistic targets. Bullet points showing the areas still outstanding for each section would also be useful by the end of the week (Sunday).

It was suggested a Position Statement for the Steering Group and Parish Councillors could then be put together, and Mr Rainey suggested the workshop could take place after three weeks, so ideas and information could be shared.

Cllr Grainger mentioned that if anyone wants any maps of Wolston, they should just let him know the area they want (what it needs to include) and the size of the map, and he can get this arranged.

Mrs Malyon requested that the NDP update in Parish Council meetings be moved back into the Public Forum part of the meeting. Mr Willis agreed that this would be fine and Mr Rainey and all CG members agreed, although if the Parish Council are required to make a decision the NDP will have to be a formal agenda item.

Mr Rainey asked if an informal Steering Group Zoom meeting could be set for Monday 28th June at 6pm. The meeting would be to receive an update on the current position only.

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 7.00pm.