

# WATLINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FORUM

**Meeting of the Development Sites Group on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016, at 7.30p.m.**

**Present:** Tony Powell (Facilitator), Gill Bindoff, Nick Greaves, Ian Hill, Terry Jackson, Peter Richardson, Tony Williamson. Keith Jackson (from 9.00p.m.)

**Apologies:** none.

**Declarations of Interest:** none.

**Minutes of the meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> September:** An addition to the minutes was agreed in order to record that the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> August was not a full DSG meeting, but a working meeting to prepare for the Sites Workshop on 27<sup>th</sup> August. As this was a working meeting no minutes were taken. With this addition the minutes were agreed to be a correct record.

- 1. Matters arising: Flood Maps:** Marina Barlow from the Environment Agency has been asked to confirm that the map on the EA website is the revised map for 2016. It appears to be different from the 2014 map but confirmation is needed.
- 2. Report of the Sites Workshops:** Notes of the Workshops were tabled and will be added to the minutes of this meeting. The Workshops were held on 27<sup>th</sup> August and 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Those attending represented the NP Forum Development Sites Group and Coordination Group, and the Parish Council NP Steering Committee. The assessment of the sites against the selection criteria was the first step in the process to arrive at preferred sites.
- 3. Sites spreadsheet:** The completed spreadsheet was tabled and discussed. An electronic version will be produced by TP. This is a working document and will be used as a basis for further stages of the assessment process. It was noted that two sites will be moved from the 'unknown' to the 'available' category as a result of updated information. These sites are 13 and 20.
- 4. Use of Sustainability Objectives to assess sites:** The full list of objectives was considered and agreement was reached on the objectives which are generic and could apply to any site and those which could be site specific. In summary, the site specific objectives cover :
  - Access to green spaces, the countryside and surrounding villages
  - Access to local services and facilities
  - Opportunities to improve public transport
  - Reduction of the impact of traffic and opportunity to improve traffic management
  - Opportunities to improve air quality
  - Opportunities to provide habitat linkage and wildlife corridors
  - Protect and enhance the town's landscape setting
  - Minimise light pollution
  - Protect and enhance the town's historic environment
  - Protect and enhance water courses
  - Reduce risk of groundwater and fluvial flooding
  - Re-use of previously developed land

- Opportunities to increase local food production via new orchards/community gardens
  - Opportunities to provide increased employment opportunities
- Several of these objectives are duplicated by the site selection criteria and have already been recorded.
5. **Aims and objectives of the NP (as listed in 'What Watlington Wants')**: Copies of the WWW sheet were circulated and it was agreed that the group will consider the optimum way of assessing the sites against these objectives. Inevitably, there will be some duplication with the site selection criteria and the sustainability objectives. In advance of the next meeting, members of the Group will produce a list of 'new' objectives which have not already been covered in the site assessment process.
  6. **Site record sheets**: These are still outstanding. TP needs electronic versions of all the site sheets which have been completed to date. Those which have not been done will be completed as soon as possible so that a full set is available.
  7. **Planning application on land off Pyrton Lane (WAT 8)**: This application has now been registered by SODC. Pyrton Parish Council has responded to the consultation and has made a number of objections. The application site on the SODC planning website includes a number of other objectors, and a copy of a letter of objection has been received from Carter Jonas on behalf of the Beechwood Estate. Watlington Parish Council will make a recommendation at the meeting of the Planning Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> October. In the meantime, an informal meeting will be held by WPC with representatives of the NP Forum to discuss the implications of the application for the NP. A meeting will also be arranged with the applicant, Providence Land, on a 'without prejudice' basis to discuss aspects of the application in relation to the NP.
  8. **Meetings with other developers**: Some follow up meetings are being arranged with other developers. A meeting with Archstone (sites 11 and 12) is scheduled on 27<sup>th</sup> September. The parish council has authorised the NP Forum to arrange meetings as required and to organise a mixed panel of Forum members and members of WPC as before.
  9. **Meeting with HCA (Chalgrove airfield)**: A meeting has been arranged on 4<sup>th</sup> October from 10a.m. Peter Richardson updated the Group on communications with HCA and on the opportunities to benefit from the work HCA has commissioned on highways infrastructure relating to possible development at Chalgrove airfield. Further information is needed on the exact nature of the meeting which HCA is proposing. PR will be in contact about this. It is known that HCA wishes to use a process called 'Enquiry by Design' to engage local communities with the design of development at Chalgrove.

**Date of next meeting: It was agreed that the next meeting will be on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at the Community Office at 7.30p.m.**