

Watlington Neighbourhood Plan Forum.

Report to the WPC NP Steering Committee for the meeting on 09.05.16.

Diary of meetings/activities after 04.04.16:

- > The Coordination Group met on 11, 18 April. The next meeting is on 5 May.
- > The Development Sites Group met on 2, 13, 20, 21, 27 April.
- > Infrastructure - meeting with headteachers of Watlington Primary School and Icknield Community College: 14.04
- > Economy: meeting with local businesses - High Street shops - 19.04.
- > Economy: further meetings planned for 05.05 and 24.05 Car Park
- > Survey: 21.04 - 23.04 Meetings with Pyrton: 11.04 and 20.04 Steering
- > Group extra meeting: 25.04
- > Housing: review of outcomes of the housing survey - 04.05

Development Sites:

As you will see from the above, the group has met several times in the last month with the aim of completing this stage of the group's work. The working spreadsheet recording each site together with information on each of the site selection criteria is nearing completion. The paragraphs which justify each of the selection criteria are almost complete. Responses regarding availability have not been received from all site owners/agents - the availability criterion for these sites will be recorded as 'unknown'. All identified sites will be assessed against all the criteria so that a complete record is provided. The intention is to proceed with a longlist of sites in advance of discussions being held with owners/agents/developers.

Car Park Survey:

Rachel Gill and Peter Richardson have recorded all the details gathered during the survey. The ANPR data will be available shortly, but the manual survey has already provided some very useful information about the way the car park is used by visitors, residents and people coming to Watlington for work purposes.

Housing Survey:

The report and supporting information have now been published and are on the NP website. Papers copies are being made available. There will be a meeting of the Forum to discuss the findings and to consider priorities on 04.05.16. This will contribute to the sustainability objectives of the NP.

Traffic presentation:

David Cotterell gave a presentation to the Steering Committee on 25.04.16 of the work of the Traffic Group and key issues raised. Specifications are being prepared with the help of SODC for some consultancy support for traffic impact assessments of individual and groups of sites and for some work on feasibility of traffic management strategies for the town centre.

Sustainability Scoping Report:

Work on this is ongoing but nearing completion. Some funding to support this and the Environment Statement will be part of a grant application to Locality.

Economic Sustainability:

A very useful meeting was held with local retailers at the Town Hall on 19.04. Questionnaires were filled in and an interesting discussion followed about how the NP process can support the vitality of the High Street. Further meetings are planned, particularly with people who work from home.

Infrastructure:

Rachel Gill and Peter Richardson met the Headteachers of both local schools to assess the capacity for growth and to gather evidence about the impact of the local housing market on staff recruitment and retention. Notes of these meetings are available.

Short term strategy:

A 'What Watlington Wants' paper is being prepared to form the basis of a guide to assessing the balance of benefit and harm from development.

Annual Parish Meeting on 19.05.16:

The Forum has prepared a leaflet for house to house circulation in advance of the APM to update residents on the progress of the NP and to raise issues about current levels of new homes allowed in the SODC area. The leaflets will be delivered by Forum volunteers.