

01.04.16. Report to WPC NP Steering Committee from the Forum Coordination Group:

1. There has been a change of membership on the Forum. Debbie Davies has stepped down having used up the volunteer hours she allocated to the NP. She has made a very significant contribution as a member of the Coordination Group and, especially, as the facilitator of the Development Sites Group. She will be missed. Tony Powell has agreed to take over the facilitator role for the DS Group and this was confirmed at the meeting held on 23rd. March. TP will also join the Coordination Group.
2. NP Project Plan. Further work has been done on this and Rachel will maintain it as an ongoing working document. A3 paper copies will be circulated before the meeting.
3. The CG has decided to move the timing of the Roadshows from the end of April to the end of June in order to be sure of being able to present a full picture of progress. By the end of May it is expected that the outcome of the housing and car park surveys will be available. The evidence on development sites will be further advanced and there will be more clarity on options available for traffic management.
4. The workshop on the site selection process on 19th March was successful and was attended by 17 members of the NP Forum.
5. The Development Sites Group had a very useful session on 23rd March with Peter Canavan (SODC). He advised on the assessment of the built form of Watlington and also on the site selection process. He is supportive of the process being developed.
6. The analysis and report of the housing survey are expected in mid-April. The Forum has produced a report on the local housing market which will complement the survey and contribute to NP housing policies.
7. A survey of local green/amenity spaces, including a record of current use and future plans is in preparation.
8. An event is planned to gather further evidence of economic sustainability and the vitality of the High Street. Following discussion with local retailers, a meeting for shopkeepers will be held at the Town Hall on 19th April from 5.30 to 7.00p.m. A meeting for other local businesses and home workers will be arranged in a May.
9. Peter Canavan has put the Forum in touch with a colleague at SODC who is a member of the strategic planning team and has experience of highways projects. The Forum Traffic Group is hoping that he will be able to help to advise on the traffic management options which have been proposed and draw up specification for further technical support. Contact has already been made with David Cotterell (Facilitator, Traffic Group) and a visit to Watlington has been arranged on 12 April to look at the context of the TG's schemes.
10. A grant application for funding from Locality is being worked up. This will comprise a package of support for the car park survey, traffic management options, traffic impact assessments, sustainability appraisal, environmental statement and presentation materials for public roadshows and consultations. An application for funding from the big Lottery may also be made.

