

# NPF Coordination Group

---

Minutes of second meeting: 24/11/2015 – West Room, 7.30pm

Present :-

Gill Bindoff, Peter Richardson , Pepita Bianchi , Norman Perry, Debbie Davies, Rob Smith, David Cotterell, Keith Jackson

1. Apologies for absence – Andy Higgins, Tony Clarry

It was determined not to follow up on those who had expressed interest in the NPFCG but who have yet to attend a meeting and have not responded to emails from RG.

2. Notes from previous meeting

AH to lead infrastructure group

GB reported progress with Sustainability Groups. The NPPF definition will be largely followed.

[Action: KJ to ask RG for more Declaration of Interests Forms and to ask TC and AH whether they have completed theirs]

GB presented a list of questions for the meeting with SODC housing officials + Peter Canavan on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 19:30 – West Room. The list was accepted however we may need to press SODC for more detail on their policy towards affordable housing and how this is broken down according to the demographics of an area.

There was an extensive discussion on Housing mix , how affordable housing should be integrated rather than ghettoised and the thought that a Housing Needs survey might be needed. Many of these issues should be covered by the Housing AG.

There is some 'overlap' between Watlington & Pyrton who have started their NP.

[Action: PR to arrange meeting between members of NPFCG and Pyrton NP]

3. Review of Advisory Groups Meeting (16<sup>th</sup> November)

Traffic (RS , DC)

The 'more experienced' members of this group may inhibit the introduction of fresh ideas. DC/RS sought clarification of how much 'steer' to give the group. It was thought that a greater emphasis was needed on the impact of 79 houses on pedestrian routes as well as vehicular traffic issues. Too much emphasis may have been placed in the current NP on improving the prospects for 'through traffic' rather than traffic management itself. RS suggested that providing active traffic management with the introduction of pedestrian controlled zebra crossings would

be an example of a more sustainable approach.

It was agreed that a re-emphasis of the traffic group without discarding existing evidence would be a suitable approach.

#### Infrastructure

PR reported good progress with this group. Four categories were decided for evidence assessment/gathering.

#### Sites

There may be a similar issue in this group to traffic with 'more experienced members' inhibiting the re-assessment of, in particular, Housing sites.

Rob Field had agreed to assess the existing documentation in the Parish Office on Development Sites.

Although the previous NP had a criteria based approach to site assessment it was still quite difficult to provide information on the relative suitability of sites in a format that could easily be understood by the public during the consultation. It was considered that the Malmesbury method might improve this information.

[Action KJ to continue with trialling of Malmesbury weighted scoring based process]

In the discussion that followed DC suggested that an independent (i.e. Not Watlington resident) chair of the sites group would be helpful in avoiding impressions of bias.

[Action: DD to chair/facilitate the Sites group assisted by PB. GB to move to similar role in the Housing group]

It had originally been thought that the individual groups should not be 'led' by members of the NPFCG however it now seems that this approach should be reversed. RS suggested that NPFCG members 'leading' AGs be formalised.

[Action:GB to raise this with the NP Steering Committee at their next meeting 30<sup>th</sup> November]

Some people in the groups who work as professionals in property and development may be perceived locally to have a potential conflict of interest. In order to ensure that the NP process is open and transparent persons in this category will be asked to sign the Declarations of Interest Form.

[Action: GB to raise this matter at the NP Steering Committee meeting on 30/11/2015]

#### 4. Communications Policy

PR reported that progress on the NP had been presented to the WPC Outreach meeting in the Fox&Hounds, Christmas Common on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

PR also reported that the NP has a database of 300 contacts which could grow to 500.

The policy was generally thought to be comprehensive but will be discussed with the NP Steering Committee.

5. Project Plan

It was thought that the timescale (to referendum in Sep2017) could be shortened. This would also help impact of communications.

Further discussion deferred to next meeting, and will also be discussed with the NP Steering Committee.

6. Christmas Fayre

Ideas presented by PR generally well received although it was thought that the NP stall activities should retain mostly a fun element with the idea of having people particularly younger people, provide their contact details.

[Action: PR to proceed with his ideas for the NP stall with help from members of the NPFCG as required]

7. Budget

There is a possibility of match funding from SODC and perhaps lottery money to help with the future costs of the NP. It was thought that we might suggest a figure in the region of £10K over two years from WPC. We ought to aim to finalise a figure by January 2016. As it is too soon in the process to identify areas of expenditure in detail it was agreed to discuss this with the NP Steering Committee on 30/11/2015.

[Action: GB to raise at NPSC meeting]

8. Next Meeting Dates

**NPFCG** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 7:30pm TOWN HALL

**Traffic** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 7:30pm WEST ROOM

**Infrastructure** Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 7:30pm PARISH OFFICE

**Environment** Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 7:30pm WEST ROOM

**Sites** Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 7:30pm PARISH OFFICE

**NPFCG** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 7:30pm WEST ROOM

**Housing** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 7:30pm WEST ROOM