



Watlington Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Kristina Tynan

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 5th DECEMBER AT 8PM IN THE PARISH OFFICE

Present:

Councillors: Jeremy Bell (Chair), Terry Jackson, Matt Reid, Steph Van de Pette

In Attendance: Peter Richardson, Gill Bindoff, Peter Canavan (SODC)

1. Apologies
Tom Bindoff

2. Declarations of Interest
None

3. Minutes of the last meeting
The minutes from the 14th November were reviewed and signed off by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising

The only matter not covered in the agenda is the NP Budget. This has been deferred by the finance committee, awaiting additional information.

5. NP Forum Update

Draft WNDP

A copy of the document had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

GB asked that the group review the document with particular reference to policies and give their feedback.

TJ asked about the numbers for population and combined population for the NP area. GB said this would be clarified in the document. TJ also asked about adding public art under Policy 6 (Physical and Social Infrastructure).

PC advised that the policies are to amplify local and national policy not duplicate. Specificity is good as are 'signposts' to evidence. A lot of areas of concern are already covered by national policy, e.g flooding /building on flood plains. Another example is Conservation Areas and AONB. We need to specify what it is about Watlington's conservation area /AONB that is important. Identifying on maps really helps this.

Policy 1 Protect and Enhance the Character of Watlington

An example of this are the views from Watlington Hill identified in the Vision and Objectives document.

ACTION : Check what up to date photos are available for these.

PR asked about the importance of any additional text.

PC said that the policy carries the most weight but the text is still included, policies are not however statute anyway.

MR asked about other landscape features such as drainage ditches? These can be investigated and added to a map.

SvdP suggested a further exploration of the 'character' of Watlington as she felt this was more than the conservation area and buildings.

Policy 2 To manage Road Traffic issues

PC recommended keeping something in on this as there is an AQMA area and issues with bottleneck of traffic

Policy 3 Conserve and Enhance the Natural Environment and Historic setting of Watlington

SvdP asked whether more detail to list specifically what type of biodiversity ? GB felt it was better to keep this general and put details into the site specific information.

There was another discussion on views. The three landscape types need to be specified. PC suggested using a web link for this.

Policy 4 New Housing Development

This policy is based on evidence from the housing needs survey.

Policy 5 Watlington as a Service Centre and Employment focus

PC said SODC would monitor employment levels and aim for not a net loss but ideally net sustainable growth.

MR asked about including home working space into house designs. NP said this has been tried a lot but the take up is generally low. PC commented that the types of business would be limited as it would be in a residential area.

Policy 6 Physical and Social Infrastructure

GB asked the group whether they were happy with the policies as they currently stand.

Resolved : The Steering Group agreed.

Traffic Modelling

GB asked PC for an update on this.

PC said that SODC now have access to the OCC model . It will be March/April before there are results ready.

GB asked that PC help arrange a meeting with OCC Highways.

RG said that the NP specification has been sent off to providers with a reply deadline of 16th December.

Edge Street Designs

GB explained to PC that Steering Committee had an informal workshop session to review the HCA drawing and come up with ideas.

She asked for clarification on density. PC said 25 units per hectare. He advised to draw out the main themes from the various drawings and ideas from the workshop as these may form part of some policies.

PC left the meeting at 9pm.

There was then a further discussion over development of sites, character of sites and options for an 'Edge Street'.

The main point of note were:

- A mix of density is required
- Land to be made available for school expansion
- Land to be made available for recreation area expansion
- Green space buffer to Pyrton / Larger low density housing near Pyrton
- Use of large sites to include some commercial units, e.g. WAT11/12 as this is adjacent to the industrial estate.
- In line with the emerging Watlington Design Guide
- Idea to 'mirror' Marlbrook for development in WAT10

Meeting Closed at 10pm

Next Meeting Monday 9th January

