

The leaflet distributed recently by the group calling themselves the Shadow WNP Group included a number of questions which it suggested people should ask about the Neighbourhood Plan. These answers have been prepared by the NP Forum:

1. Why does the new WNP committee have no traffic strategy when 'traffic' is the single most important issue to Watlington residents? Why does the WNP not think this is fundamental to deciding where new housing should go?

The Forum Traffic Group has been working on the development of a traffic strategy for six months. Options included in the TPP traffic consultant's report, and previously included in the SODC Air Quality Action Plan and Peter Brett report, have been taken forward. All options have been considered including the provision of a second route through Watlington and traffic management strategies in the town centre. The outcomes of this work are presented in the current NP Roadshows which are making their way around the town and parish. The Parish Council, with the Forum, is trying to obtain grant funding to carry out some modelling of different options and also analysis of the traffic impact of development in Watlington and villages along the B4009 route. The information from the Roadshows will be put on the NP website at the end of this week and additional information will be made public when it is available. The overall aim is to make sure that relevant information about traffic impact contributes to the selection of development sites within the NP and also feeds in to a comprehensive traffic management strategy for the parish.

2. Why are there no records of recent WNP meetings when this is a legal requirement? What does the WNP *not* want you to know about?

There are records of all formal meetings of the Forum Coordination Group and these are published on the NP website. Minutes of the parish council NP Steering Committee are also available to the public and are published. Anyone not able to find the minutes they want to see can email, phone or visit the parish office and they will be provided. Everything is completely open and transparent. Anyone can attend meetings of the parish council and can ask questions.

3. Why has a road connection to Willow Close been specifically omitted from site options when this route was a clear favourite in Consultation 2? Does WNP accept that this will result in even more houses being required to create the alternative route residents want?

The responses to Consultation 2 confirmed that the preferred route for a second road through Watlington was to the west. This has been taken forward by the Forum and two alternative routes are being considered which are included in the Roadshows. The strong objections from residents of Willow Close, Beech Close and Sycamore Close have been taken into account and a possible alternative route through site No 10 has been put forward. No proposals for development on Site 10 have been received in recent months but the site has been confirmed as available for development.

4. Why is the WNP leaflet composed so as to lead respondents to think Option A "Pepperpot Option" sounds the best?

The leaflet advertising the Roadshows was approved by the parish council NP Steering Committee. The aim was to show clearly that there is a difference in the number of new homes required between a scheme which includes a new second road through Watlington and a scheme which does not. There was absolutely no intention to lead anyone to prefer either option. The information was simply stating the facts. It is clear now that the information should have been presented more carefully in order to avoid any misinterpretation. Please accept our apologies for this mistake.

5. Please see the answer to question 1.

6. What is the need to ask, again, if the community wants a pepperpot approach when this has already been consulted on and the answer was no ?

As work on the NP progresses and circumstances change it is perfectly reasonable to check again on people's views to make sure that the NP is keeping up to date. Consultation 2 was 18 months ago. The Forum has not looked at development in the context of the former 'Pepperpot' description. There are sites around Watlington which could provide the 200 new homes we are now planning for and we want to know what people think about the possibility of developing those.

In response to the allegation that the NP is led and controlled by residents of the Marlbrook Estate please see the details of the membership of the Parish Council Steering Committee and the NP Forum.

Parish Council Steering Committee: 6 members including 2 from Marlbrook

NP Forum Coordination Group: 8 members including 2 from Marlbrook

Development Sites Group: 9 members including 3 from Marlbrook

Traffic Group: 10 members including 2 from Marlbrook

Infrastructure Group: 6 members including 1 from Marlbrook

Sustainability Groups: 24 members including 3 from Marlbrook.

The Housing Group has a fluid membership.