

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

NOTES OF A MEETING HELD AT BEWDLEY GUILDHALL ON MONDAY 12th JUNE 2017 AT 7.00 PM

Present: Councillor Calne Edginton-White, Councillor Philip Edmundson (Chair), Councillor Derek Killingworth, Cllr Linda Candlin, Cllr John Beeson, Nick Farress (Town Clerk).

1. Apologies - None

2. Objectives and Policies Consultation

The results of the Objectives and Policies consultation were circulated to Members before the meeting as prepared by Foxley Tagg Planning Ltd. Members were also in receipt of all the written responses both via the online survey and by letter/e-mail.

It was noted that the results indicated there was overall support for all the objectives and policies with all of the objectives and policies being capable of going forward to draft plan stage as they are.

However, the Steering Group reviewed each objective and policy in turn and the following amendments were agreed:

CW3 – The site would be named in the Plan as the playing field linked to Bewdley Leisure Centre, Stourport Road.

CW3 – Reference to be made to the site being retained for community use alongside the football club for public recreation.

HS2 – The site at Highclere is to be removed from the draft plan. Justification for this includes:

- Site is of high landscape value on the West side of Bewdley;
- Water run off would put undue pressure on Snuff Mill Brook;
- Road access via Park Lane/Wyre Hill into and out of the site is very restrictive.

The Council will also make this recommendation to Wyre Forest DC in relation to their Local Plan Preferred Options consultation as part of the Council's official response. It must, however, be borne in mind that the Neighbourhood Plan must be in accordance with the Local Development Plan and as such if the site is designated in the district Local Plan, it may mean that ultimately this site will appear in both plans. If this is the case, strict usage conditions will be attached restricting the number and type of units that would be acceptable on the site including drainage and visual impact conditions. It was accepted that a strong case will need to be made to WFDC to ensure the site does not appear in the LDP.

JLE1 – C1 (Hotels and Guest Houses) to be added to the acceptable "Use Classes".

INF1 and INF2 – make reference to Park Lane and Wyre Hill in relation to restricting traffic congestion.

PC4 – Map will be re-drawn to completely "zone" the green fields on the west side of the river as open space to be protected (similar to the "Areas of Separation" map in PC5).

HC1 – Add in as a bullet point "Ancient woodland including Wyre Forest and Wassell Wood" and "Adopted Local Heritage Lists for Bewdley and the Severn Valley Railway".

INF1 – Add in specific mention of the Safari Park traffic island and Habberley Road junction with Kidderminster Road at Catchems End as follows:

"Proposals which would alleviate pressure on the traffic island linking the A456 with B4190 Kidderminster Rd at the Safari Park and the junction with Habberley Road at Catchems End will be supported. This includes the change of use to a mini roundabout arrangement at Catchems End".

The next steps will be for these amendments to be sent to Sally Tagg for checking and inclusion, alongside a technical assessment of the agreed objectives and policies to ensure all the wording is correct. We can then effectively move onto producing the draft plan ready for Regulation 14 consultation in the autumn.

In the meantime, it was agreed that the Steering Group would produce the Council's response to the WFDC Preferred Options consultation and submit this to the August meeting of the Planning Committee for ratification prior to submission to WFDC.

Next Meeting

Next meeting due to be held on the 10th July 2017.

Nick Farress
Town Clerk