



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

NOTES OF A MEETING HELD AT BEWDLEY GUILDHALL ON MONDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7.00 PM

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

1. Apologies – Councillor Derek Killingworth and Councillor John Beeson

2. Draft Plan Update and Timetable

The Town Clerk and Chairman updated the meeting on a proposed change to the timetable for the Neighbourhood Plan that will need to accommodate the revised provisional district Local Plan adoption date of 2019. The Town Clerk went on to say that for legal reasons, the Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to be able to progress in its current form due to the selected sites currently being located in the Green Belt. This was not apparent during early meetings with WFDC when the sites were mutually agreed and our disappointment has been made clear to WFDC at CEO level.

It was agreed that we have no option but to delay the production of the NP until 2019 after the adoption of the new Local Plan. However, this would give us plenty of opportunities to adjust and amend our Plan as the Local Plan develops, and then be in a position to produce the most up to date NP in the district.

The Community Development Committee who met just before this meeting were advised that the Steering Group would be recommending a decision on how to proceed at this meeting and the Town Clerk would update CDC Members in due course. It was also agreed that the Town Council should make a statement explaining the reason for the revision to the timetable and that the Chairman of the Steering Group and the Town Clerk be authorised to produce and issue this statement to the press.

It was agreed to publish a “draft” draft Plan online to keep the local interest going and to invite early comments from the community so as to go to Regulation 14 already having taken into account community views on the Plan. For this to happen, the reasoned justifications need to be written for each policy and the section introductions completed. The Town Clerk would send around further instructions and relevant documents in order for Members to complete their sections. The deadline for this would be the 9th October which was the date of the next Steering Group. The Town Clerk would also check with Sally to make sure that this was deliverable from their end.

3. Section Introductions

The Heritage and Culture section intro is outstanding with Councillors Candlin and Edginton-White meeting to produce this later in the week.

4. Reasoned Justifications

The “reasoned justifications” need to be written for each Policy in the Plan. The Town Clerk will send around some guidance to Members.

5. Next Meeting

Next meeting due to be held on the 9th October at 7pm and Helen Smith from WFDC will be in attendance to discuss the revised timetable in more detail.