



## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

### NOTES OF A MEETING HELD AT BEWDLEY GUILDHALL ON MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017 AT 7.00 PM

**Present:** Councillor Calne Edginton-White, Councillor Philip Edmundson (Chair), Councillor Linda Candlin, Councillor Derek Killingworth, Councillor Anna Coleman, Nick Farress (Town Clerk), Kyle Daisley (Community Engagement Officer) and Helen Smith (Wyre Forest DC Spatial Planning Manager).

**1. Apologies** – Councillor John Beeson

#### **2. Helen Smith – WFDC Spatial Planning Manager**

Helen Smith explained to the Group the reasons why the Neighbourhood Plan should run alongside the Local Plan Review and not be “made” until after the Local Plan is adopted sometime in 2019. This may mean that the Neighbourhood Plan could even slip into 2020 given the processes it would still need to go through following the adoption of the Local Plan. It would be possible to go ahead with the Neighbourhood Plan prior to Local Plan adoption but it would not be able to contain any of the current nominated sites as they are in the Green Belt. It is likely that WFDC will go forward with these sites and adjust the Green Belt boundary but the results of the recent Preferred Options consultation are still being sifted. Community support for the sites which can be demonstrated via the NP consultations would also help to make sure the Planning Inspector was happy with the Green Belt sites when the Local Plan goes for Inspection.

It was pointed out that the nominated sites and the NP timetable which set out a May 2018 referendum was worked through with WFDC officers last November 2016, with no issues identified at that time. The two Plan timelines are published in WFDC’s Project Plan (<http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/media/2501647/LDS-Review-November-2016-revision-.pdf>). The sites were chosen with agreement from officers at WFDC at the same time that this timeline was produced and agreed by WFDC.

It was noted that the HRA and SEA screening would need to be carried out before Regulation 14 consultation even if sites were not being allocated.

The Group thanked Helen for attending and for her team’s helpful comments on the current NP objectives and policies which the Town Clerk will take on board.

Members then debated the “pro’s” and “con’s” of going ahead with the Plan regardless of the Local Plan review. The Town Clerk pointed out that if we were to go ahead with the Plan at this stage it could not include any sites, the Plan would be out of date as soon as the new Local Plan was adopted, and the Council would need to financially plan for a NP Review exercise in 2020/2021.

**It was agreed** that the Chairman and the Town Clerk would produce a report and recommendation to the next meeting of the Community Development Committee in

November recommending that the Council proceeds with the Neighbourhood Plan without the sites included, and that the Council plans for a NP Review in 2020/2021.

**It was also agreed** to press on with writing the Reasoned Justifications and submit these to Sally as planned.

### **3. Reasoned Justifications**

The Town Clerk thanked Members for producing some of the Reasoned Justifications with the PC and HC sections to follow. These would be worked on by the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk and submitted to Sally's team as scheduled.

### **4. Next Meeting**

Next meeting due to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 at 4.30pm.