



BEWDLEY
Town Council

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

NOTES OF A MEETING HELD AT 25(A) LOAD STREET ON MONDAY 19th FEBRUARY 2018 AT 5.00 PM

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

1. Apologies – Councillor Derek Killingworth

2. Draft Plan Update

The Town Clerk presented the latest version of the draft plan incorporating the changes made following the last meeting. It was **AGREED** to approve the draft and move forward with organising the next consultation event. The Town Clerk would liaise with FTP about the Environmental Impact screening and Habitat Assessment as it was uncertain whether we could move forward to Reg 14 without these in place or whether they could run alongside each other.

3. JLE1 Revised Policy Wording

The revised wording as recommended by FTP was tabled. It was **AGREED** to accept the revision subject to A5 Takeaways being removed and C1 Hotels being added. The Town Clerk had already fed this back to FTP. The new wording is as follows:

Policy JLE 1 - FUTURE TOWN CENTRE USES

The retail character of the primary shopping centre will be safeguarded / protected. These frontages should continue to be dominated by A1 retail shops. Proposals for new A1 uses will be supported in. Proposals for uses within classes A2, A3, A4 and A5 in ground floor premises within the primary shopping frontages will be supported provided that:

- *The 'retail character' of the primary shopping area is not affected.*
- *The proposal does not result in a continuous frontage of more than three non-retail (A1)*
- *The proposal will not cause the proportion of non-retail uses in the relevant frontage to exceed 50% taking into account both existing and permitted non-retail representation in the frontage concerned.*

Exceptions to this requirement may be considered where the proposal would lead to the appropriate use of a vacant or under-used premises where it can be demonstrated that it is unlikely to be use for retailing and it has been marketed as a retail shop for a period in excess of 12 months on reasonable terms.

4. Housing Sites Not Included – Justification

The Town Clerk had drafted a statement for use in the plan to justify why sites had not been included from the original consultation. The feedback from FTP was that we must state planning reasons why we are going forward without waiting for the LP Review rather than making any statement that could be construed as “political”. It was **AGREED** that the statement should not indicate any specific sites or areas and focus more on the protection of open spaces, areas of separation and water courses. The Town Clerk will re-draft and circulate for Member approval.

5. Communication and Consultation Strategy

The Town Clerk presented a draft Strategy which had already gained the approval of FTP. FTP's comments about an online focus and policy focussed questionnaire were also noted. It was **AGREED** that the following events would be attended with a "hard" launch being arranged for the Annual Town Meeting on the 9th April 2018 (date TBC).

- Greener Living Fair – 24th March 2018
- Community Showcase – 7th April 2018
- Annual Town Meeting – 9th April 2018 (date TBC).

6. Any Other Business

It was **AGREED** to re-design the front cover to incorporate the "Be In Bewdley" brand and include the Town Council logo on the Foreword page along with a picture of Cllr Edmundson. It was also **AGREED** that Cllr Edginton-White and the Town Clerk would sort out the pictures and finalise the front cover.

7. Next Meeting

Next meeting due to be held on Monday 12th March 2018 at 25(A) Load Street.