

Ilminster Neighbourhood Plan Development Group

Notes of Meeting held on 27th June 2019

Present – Stuart Shepherd (In the Chair), Colin Hyde, Annie Murdoch, Jim Sainsbury, Liz Shepherd, Scott Waldie, Tony Walker, David Westwood, Martha Covell (ECA), Joy Norris (Town Clerk)

Apologies – Colin Bailey, Bryan Ferris, Michelle Gunn, Sally Howard, Matt James, Henrietta Van den Bergh.

135 Declaration of Interest – No new declarations of interest were received.

136 Notes of Last Meeting – The notes of the meeting held on 6th June 2019 were agreed as a fair record, and signed accordingly.

137 Housing Theme Group Review – Much of the preliminary work, including discussion with local estate agents to assess enquiries from potential house buyers, had now been completed and reports indicated that we were moving towards producing a draft policy which the Town Council would be able to endorse in September. During discussion, it was suggested that we ought to be in touch with all potential developers, to advise what is emerging from our Neighbourhood planning, and to find out what their response is.

138 Economy, Tourism and Heritage Report – Jim was able to make a positive report on “homework”, including looking at Somerset Tourism Surveys and preparing a short history of Ilminster; but as outlined in Martha’s update, there were still a number of issues that needed to be tackled, including defining more precisely what sort of tourism, we were aiming to attract. There was discussion on a number of issues, even to the extent of whether seeing a scarecrow falling off a ladder brought a friendly smile to one’s face, on entering Ilminster, or alternatively was a potentially dangerous distraction to drivers!

139 Leisure and Environment Report – Here again the Theme Group were able to report on various aspects of progress, including working with the Somerset Wildlife Trust. There followed an interesting discussion on how hedges should be “tidied up” appropriately. It was noted that this Theme Group were scheduled for a meeting with Martha, on 1st August, immediately prior to the main Group meeting, and that as itemised in Martha’s E-mail of 21st June, there were still a number of issues to be tackled.

140 Transport Report – Martha reported on Ilminster’s main transport issues. Whilst there was a general coming together of views, on freeing up car parking space in the Town Centre, making adequate provision of parking spaces for developing housing, encouraging cyclists, and the planting of trees; the rest of the key questions listed in Martha’s 21st June E-mail report were referred to the Transport Theme Group..

141 Educational Issues – Stuart gave a very brief update as to how educational issues, currently under discussion at County level, could affect the Ilminster Neighbourhood Plan.

142 On Line Survey Response – Martha’s initial analysis based on the first 149 responses (closing date 31st July), were received with interest. It was recognised that the survey together with our participation in such events as IMEX, and delivering the School Road Show contributed significantly to our consultation process.

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- 143 Locality Grant** – It was confirmed that we would receive a £9,000 grant paid into the ITC bank account within the next week. We still awaited a decision as to whether a further grant of £8,000 in support of the Housing Needs Assessment Survey would also be available.
- 144 Logo Competition** – Stuart reported on the successful outcome to the Logo Competition, organised between Henrietta and Greenfylde School. Henrietta and Joy were agreeing an appropriate press release.
- 145 Strap line to join the Logo** – This was generally supported, and Members were asked to give the matter some further thought before the next meeting in terms of arranging a competition for a winning entry.
- 146 Not allowing the Neighbourhood Plan to become too Cumbersome** – The view was expressed by some Members, who had read other neighbourhood plans, that we should ensure that our Plan was readable and not unnecessarily wordy. We agreed to keep this in mind.
- 147 South Somerset Local Plan** – It was noted that consultation on this plan would commence on 28th June for six weeks. It was suggested that the Development Group should liaise with ITC concerning this.
- 148 Call for Sites** – Following the closing date for this advertisement, it would be necessary for the Development Group to liaise with the Town Council.
- 149 Strengthening the Partnership with the Council** – During the course of the meeting, several references were made to the need to strengthen the working relationship between the Plan Development Group and the Town Council. It was suggested that one way of helping this, would be for Martha to attend a Council Meeting to speak ~~about~~ to the Counsellors in very straight terms about the purpose of having a Neighbourhood Plan.
- 150 Next Meeting** – 1st August in the Council Chambers at 6pm.

ss/sw/02/07/19



Stuart
1/8/19