

Ilminster Neighbourhood Plan Development Group

Notes of Meeting held on 29th April 2020, using Zoom

Present – Stuart Shepherd (In the Chair), Sally Howard, Colin Hyde, Annie Murdoch, Henrietta Van den Bergh, Scott Waldie, Tony Walker and Martha Covell (ECA).

Apologies – Matt James and Michelle Gunn.

222 Meeting using Zoom – Although it had been agreed that at this first experimental Zoom meeting of the Group, no critical decisions would be passed regarding the Plan itself; it was agreed that until lockdown restrictions were lifted, using Zoom for further meetings represented the best way forward.

223 Operational Planning at District Level – It was recognised that SSDC planning decisions would continue to be taken in respect of certain key developments in Ilminster, even though public consultation was currently seriously curtailed. It was important therefore that the Town Council were accurately appraised of the evidence built into the draft Neighbourhood Plan, (though as yet it had no legal status), which needed to be clear and unambiguous. In particular, concern was expressed about the Station Road site, which Annie spoke on, giving emphasis to protecting the river; and later in the meeting, the Canal way site, on which Sally spoke. Martha warned that the present lockdown situation might encourage some owners and developers to press for early planning decisions. The obvious conclusion (see next minute) was that we needed to work on firming up our planning policies, to give the Town Council, to whom we duly report, appropriate ammunition, when consulted

224 Firming up the Draft Plan – This was clearly the next important step. After some debate, it was agreed that Martha would produce 5 copies of the appropriate paper work to Henny, who would ensure that Annie, Colin, Tony and herself each had a working copy, with a 5th copy to bring it all together. Henny would liaise this. Martha asked that the initial emphasis should be on firming up the policies, rather than the grammar!

225 Next Meeting – It was agreed that the next Group Meeting should take place at 8pm on Wednesday 3rd June using Zoom.

226 Hosting of the Meeting - Stuart thanked Colin for setting up the Zoom meeting and acting as host.

sw/30/04/20

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