

Ilminster Neighbourhood Plan Development Group

Notes of Meeting held on 1st August 2019

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

Apologies – Michelle Gunn, Sally Howard, Henrietta Van den Bergh, David Westwood.

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

152 Notes of Last Meeting – The notes of the meeting held on 27th June 2019 were agreed as a fair record, and signed accordingly.

153 Liaison with Town Council – It was noted that Martha would attend a full Council meeting in September to talk to the Counsellors about the purpose and direction of the Neighbourhood Plan. As Martha would also be firming up Development Group comments in response to the South Somerset District Council local plan, as reflected in her report to the current meeting, this also represented the ideal opportunity for ensuring that the Development Group's response to the SSDC plan was appropriately processed through the Town Council.

154 Results of On Line Consultation – This consultation having finally closed on 31st July, a total of 152 responses had eventually been received, and these would be further analysed and reported on accordingly.

155 Consultation with Schools – The results of this consultation would be the subject of a report to the next Development Group meeting.

156 Appraisal of Housing Site Development Options – Martha circulated a report on the 27 sites identified, together with a suggested methodology to assess their relative desirability. Having excluded some of the smaller sites which already had permission, it should then be possible to firm up on a list of about half the sites, which would enable the housing targets set by SSDC to be achieved. With the aid of maps, the meeting identified all the sites listed, and commented on each and everyone, although inevitably Members with a longer experience of residency in Ilminster knew the sites better than others. No formal conclusions were reached other than the Chairman asking for a vote to ensure that "site 26" was left available for school expansion. As a next step, it was agreed to organise a sites "walk about" on 17th September at 5pm, which would be followed up by a workshop in the Minster Rooms on 26th September. Colin H also offered to investigate whether a photographer could be found to photograph the sites. There was no detailed discussion as to the application of the site allocation options analysis, which would obviously be returned to later.

157 Housing Theme Group – No further report was made at the current meeting, other than Martha's updated report on Housing and Employment policies.

158 Economy, Tourism and Heritage Theme Group – The Theme Group made no further report, although relevant references in Martha's overall progress report were duly noted, as was the Theme Group "homework".

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159 Environment and Leisure Theme Group – Martha’s detailed draft policy document circulated prior to the meeting was noted and supported, although not discussed in any detail at the main Development Group meeting (as a theme group meeting had been held earlier in the evening).

160 Transport Theme Group – Notes of the last meeting of this theme group held on 23rd July having been pre circulated, were duly noted with interest, as the Group were clearly identifying their own homework.

161 Grants – The Locality grant of £9,000 had now been received, and application was still pending in respect of a further £8,000 grant vv “Housing Needs Assessment Survey”.

162 Strap Line – This proposal was now in abeyance.

163 Next Meeting – 5th September in the Council Chambers at 6pm, preceded by a meeting of the Transport Theme

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