

## **Ilminster Neighbourhood Plan Development Group**

### **Notes of Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019**

**Present – Stuart Shepherd (In the Chair), Sally Howard, Colin Hyde, Annie Murdoch, Jim Sainsbury, Liz Shepherd, Henrietta Van den Bergh, Scott Waldie, Tony Walker, David Westwood, Martha Covell (ECA) and Joy Norris (Town Clerk).**

**Apologies –** Colin Bailey, Michelle Gunn, and Bryan Ferriss, who was resigning from further meetings, but still wished to be kept in touch with the progress of the Plan.

**201 Declarations of Interest –** No new declarations of interest were received.

**202 Notes of Last Meeting –** The notes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were agreed as a fair record, and signed accordingly.

**203 Progression of Planning Applications –** Following some expressions of concern arising at the last Design Workshop (with particular reference to the Canal Way site) there was a debate as to how far the Plan Development Group could become involved in negotiating with developers on such matters as design, during the period when applications were being processed through the established Town Council and District Council planning structures. Clearly, once a Neighbourhood Plan was in place, and had acknowledged status, the problem would disappear, (as indeed the Plan Development Group would have also disappeared!). Meantime, the Development Group were dependent on their liaison with the Town Council to ensure that they were aware of any planning application developments, and the possible implications thereof. Equally, as expressed by Persimmons in a meeting back in May, it could be helpful to developers to be aware of the policies being incorporated in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

**204 Site Options Report –** Martha presented an updated site options report which incorporated feedback from the latest Housing Group reports. Although an additional site had now been included (Greenway Farm – site 32); the conclusions remained much as before, and were supported by the full Development Group in submitting the current Draft Plan to the Town Council. Aside from the odd arithmetic query and the need for correction to a few typing errors; the main point discussed was the interdependence between sites 16 and 25. The conclusion was that site 25 should only be released for housing, either in conjunction with site 16 being allocated for employment development, or on the basis that site 16 had already been secured for employment purposes. Work was in progress in approaching the owners of the listed sites, and Joy circulated a summary of the eleven responses received so far.

**205 Further Progression of the Draft Plan –** The Draft Plan would now be subject to Town Council ratification on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, and after further proof reading, would be sent to SSDC Policy Officers for an opinion on a strategic assessment, both of the Draft Plan and the site assessment report. In the meantime work would continue on liaising with the relevant site land owners, and preparing the way for a formal six week consultation period in the Spring, followed by a formal submission of the Plan to the Local Planning Authority by late Summer. Martha undertook to circulate an updated timetable to all Group Members.

**206 Consultation Strategy –** Stuart and Henny would be meeting during the coming week to determine the consultation programme, on the understanding that the Town Council would be asked for £5,000 funding for this purpose. Current thinking was that the consultation should include

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both a manned exhibition, as well as a standing display in an appropriate location. Stuart and Henny would circulate Group Members with their conclusions, and initiate the process for tendering for outside input as necessary.

**207 Ongoing Group Communications** – Following an acceptance that the Development Group should increasingly take responsibility for intercommunications, Colin H agreed to take over circulating “mail chimp”. Under this communications heading, he managed to advocate that Plan Development Group Members should join “Green Ilminster” (meeting in the Dolphin early Thursday evenings!). Martha offered to share Dropbox links as appropriate.

**208 Next Meeting** – It was agreed that given the clearly established timetable and the actions delegated to specified Group Members, there was not a requirement to meet in January 2020, but that Stuart, Scott and Martha should set up a date in early February to review progress.

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