

Neighbourhood Plan Development Group

Notes of Meeting held on 6th February 2019

Present – Carol Goodall (In the Chair), Colin Bailey, Bryan Ferriss, Colin Hyde, Annie Murdoch, Scott Waldie, Tony Walker, Martha Covell (Consultant), Joy Norris (Town Clerk).

Apologies – Matt James, Liz Shepherd, Stuart Shepherd, Natalie Wainwright, David Westwood

67 Declaration of Interest – No declarations of interest were received.

68 Notes of Last Meeting – The notes of the meeting held on 29th November 2018 were agreed as a fair record, and signed accordingly.

69 Consultant's Report – Martha elaborated on a programme (circulated with the agenda), which scheduled, in eight stages her proposed input in accordance with the quotation specification, to making the Ilminster Neighbourhood Plan. She also itemised her requirements in terms of background information which Joy and Scott agreed to provide. During the ensuing discussion several questions were raised, including a concern as to what weight the completed plan would have. To put this in context, Martha referred to a consultancy document (attached to these minutes), listing and defining relevant national and local planning policies. Other important issues raised were the securing of a locality grant and the early adoption of a consultation strategy. Both were listed in the early stages of Martha's programme. The content of the consultation strategy engendered quite a lively debate which was reignited later in the agenda where the conclusions are minuted. It was nevertheless agreed that Martha would prepare a full report on this item for the next meeting. Other questions focussed on whether the Group itself needed to be more positive in identifying options as to how Ilminster could develop over the next 10 years or so, in order to give us something interesting on which to consult!

70 Vision Statements and Thematic Groups – Whilst the amended overall Vision Statement (already circulated) was accepted pro tem, subject to any simplification of wording, it was recognised that more work needed to be done on the Thematic Group Statements. With this in mind, current Group Membership was reviewed:

Housing – Tony, Annie, Bryan

Economy & Tourism – Natalie, Matt

Environment, Leisure & Heritage – Stuart, Carol, Colin H

Transport – David J, Colin B

71 Developing an Evidence Base – A schedule of work undertaken so far was circulated for information, and Martha undertook to advise on further work required.

72 Consultation Strategy – Linking into the discussion on the Consultant's report, it was agreed that the strategy which she was producing should include questionnaires, travelling exhibitions and workshops. In the meantime, it was agreed that more information about the Plan should go on the Town Council website and face book, and a logo should be adopted.

73 Press Statements – Last month’s press statement was noted (though it had not attracted any “interested parties” phoning in!). Nevertheless, it was agreed to continue using the Ilminster Free Press to issue statements, the next of which, drafted by Martha to send to Scott, would include information about the Consultant appointment, a logo competition, and a special event in March.

74 Date of Next Meeting – 7pm on 28th January 2019 in the Council Offices.

CG/SW/12/02/19