

Neighbourhood Plan Development Group

Draft Notes of Meeting held on 28th February 2019

Present – Carol Goodall (In the Chair), Colin Bailey, Bryan Ferriss, Colin Hyde, Annie Murdoch, Stuart Shepherd, Liz Shepherd, Henrietta Van den Bergh, Scott Waldie, Tony Walker, David Westwood, Joy Norris (Town Clerk), Martha Covell (ECA), Antonia Morgan (ECA).

Apologies – Natalie Wainwright.

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

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

77 Report on ECA Meeting with SSDC Planning Officers – Martha gave a short feedback on her meeting in Yeovil earlier in the day. The latest Draft District Plan due out for consultation in the Summer, identified a requirement for a further 320 new homes in Ilminster by 2036, in addition to the 400 already designated in Canal Way. The three sites identified in the report for housing development were Shudrick, Dowlish Ford and Station Road. Clearly this created a new challenge to the Ilminster Neighbourhood Plan, as to whether these sites were acceptable provided that the design and mix of homes conformed to locality plan specifications, or whether the Neighbourhood Plan should press for the identification of alternative sites.

78 Grants – It was noted that Locality grant applications could be submitted as from 1st April, and that ECA would draft an appropriate application on Ilminster's behalf.

79 Consultation Strategy – Papers on consultation strategy and press releases which had been circulated prior to the meeting were presented by Martha and Antonia, discussed and approved. The supporting papers setting out the timescales and cost variations were also noted. The intention to issue a press statement after every Plan Development Group meeting was again confirmed, and Carol offered to approve and issue the drafts prepared by Martha. The consultation strategy covered both questionnaires and specific events from 16th March onwards, together with the accompanying publicity requirements. Subject to minor amendments the ECA prepared poster/flier for 16th March would be sent to Joy 1st March for photocopying and subsequent availability to Group Members to collect from Council Offices as from 5th March, and to distribute as appropriate. The "Vision Statement Leaflet" (including map) would be updated by ECA and made available locally early in the week commencing 11th March. As we were now dealing with an increasing number of papers, there was a request that a date be included in all document references.

80 Overall Vision Statement – Some Members felt strongly that this needed to be couched in more positive terms concerning the unique nature of Ilminster as a market town with a great heritage. Henny offered to develop the existing statement and make it available to ECA by 8th March.

81 Thematic Group Reports – The meeting divided into individual discussion groups to work further on developing the aims of individual thematic groups. There was a brief report back session, but Team Leaders were asked to confirm any important points to Martha by 8th March in order to update the "Vision Statement Leaflet" referred to under minute 79 above. On reflection it was

agreed that “Heritage” would in future be addressed together with “Economy and Tourism”, rather than “Leisure and Environment”, although as noted earlier, it was regarded as a strong component of the overall vision statement applying to all thematic groups.

82 Community Assembly on 14th March – A display table had been booked for this event as a fore runner to our main event on 16th March. Scott would ensure that appropriate material was displayed.

83 16th March Event – There had been some discussion of this under various minute headings, but before the meeting closed, there was a brief recap as to who was doing what, starting with Carol and Henny setting up tables etc in the market house at 9am, and various Group Members (wearing badges supplied by Martha), including all currently present (apart from Stuart who tendered apologies}, being available for “walkabouts” (or manning the headquarters – Tony and Scott) from 10.45 onwards. All Group Members participating were encouraged to keep records of interested parties to add to our main list of the “engaged” community (“recognised stakeholders”). Bryan offered to recruit the Town Crier to aid the Group’s efforts to engage the attention of those in town that day.

84 Date of Next Meeting – This was agreed as 28th March in the Council Chambers, though there might be an earlier start time than previously. Scott would confirm this shortly. Meanwhile, everybody was encouraged to look out their favourite planning policy, and bring a copy with them on 28th March!

SW/02/03/19