

Neighbourhood Plan Development Group

Notes of Meeting held on 24th October 2018

Present – Natalie Wainwright (In the Chair), Drew Belobaba, Bryan Ferriss, Carol Goodall, Matt James, David Jewson, Stuart Shepherd, Scott Waldie, Tony Walker.

Apologies – None received.

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

49 Notes of Last Meeting – The notes of the meeting held on 27th September 2018 were agreed as a fair record, and signed accordingly.

50 Matters Arising

i) Dropbox – No further progress has been made on this issue, which means that all papers will continue to be circulated as conventional e-mail communications.

ii) Consultant Quotation – The latest papers stating the requirements of the appointee as precisely as possible, did stipulate a fairly tight timetable for completion of the work. Nevertheless, during discussion, it was acknowledged that in accepting the preferred quotation, account would be taken of the possible need to extend the time scale, if a well balanced case was made to do so. In response to concerns about premature payments, it was stressed that payments would be linked to stipulated milestones. Whilst it was recognised that the Consultant's work would cover all Thematic Groups, it was also reasonable to suppose that any individual group might require additional bought in resources, either in terms of personnel or finance. It was noted that representatives of the Development Group were scheduled to meet with prospective Consultants on Thursday 15th November.

iii) Publicity – Recently issued statements, which had been expanded to include an invitation to take over the Chairpersonship of the Group, having been circulated, were duly noted.

51 Review of Chair – Natalie explained her position, and the need to pursue the appointment of a successor; although she also undertook to continue the actual chairing of meetings until the matter was resolved. During the subsequent discussion it was suggested that the appointment of a consultant, who would be taking on much of the work in between meetings, might ease the situation.

52 Vision for Ilminster – Carol introduced her “straw man”, a first crack at putting together an overarching vision statement covering the aspirations of the four thematic groups. It was widely supported, in the knowledge that as the vision statements of individual groups began to take shape, the overall statement would be expanded accordingly. As at the last meeting, Group Members had varying views as to whether “vision” wasn’t better replaced by “mission” or “ambition”, which might lead to more positive down to earth thinking, but it was agreed to stick to the approved jargon, whilst being clear in one’s own mind, what it actually meant! It was also agreed that further comments on this overall vision statement (and the individual thematic group statements subsequently discussed), would be sent to Scott within the next couple of weeks in order that he could correlate and circulate them, well before the next meeting.

53 Economy and Tourism – Natalie’s first draft vision statement was widely supported, though it was tempered with a view that the continuance of Ilminster as a commuter/dormitory town was inevitable, given that it had such good accessibility to Exeter, Yeovil and Taunton.

54 Environment, Leisure and Heritage – Stuart spoke on the availability of open spaces and the need to incorporate their future in the vision statement.

55 Housing – In addition to the Housing Needs Survey report already circulated, Tony circulated a paper with more detailed comments on the survey, together with a vision statement. Clearly there is an issue as to where the balance is struck between houses for incomers and meeting more specific future needs of the current community.

56 Transport and Infrastructure – During the meeting, David gave various updates which intermeshed with the other Thematic Group reports, indicating several areas of overlap, particularly in respect of additional housing making significant demands on transport policy.

57 Consultation with the Local Community – This was raised on a couple of occasions during the course of the meeting, and it was concluded that we should seek to clarify our vision statements and take them out to the Community early December, to find out what they thought of them!

58 Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 29th November 2018 at 7pm in the Council offices (unless notified of an alternative venue!)

Nw/Sw/29/10/18