

Notes of a Meeting held by Zoom on Tuesday 15th December 2020

Sutton Benger Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

Introduction to new members of the Group

Attending: Nicola Hayward, Ruth Gaunt, Neil Roynon, David Thomson, Martin Verspeak, John Carlyon, Phil Llewellyn, Peter Oldale, Mike Hogben

The purpose of this meeting was to give a brief introduction to the NDP and a catch up as to where we are in the process. We looked at and approved the minutes of the last meeting and the new /improved Terms of Reference. Then, Nicola opened the meeting by welcoming those taking part and explained the purpose of the meeting. Each individual briefly introduced themselves and illustrated their background as appropriate and their vision for Sutton Benger, with links into the Development Plan.

Nicola explained that experience elsewhere (Hullavington for example) had led to three main policy areas where they hoped to make a difference. So, it does not need to be overly complicated once the base data has been gathered and understood. In this case, we have a household survey, community engagement has taken place, and the vision and objectives are agreed, with chapters 1 to 4 in place. The group's focus is using this work, updating it as required, and to start looking at the Policies and Policy areas.

So the first series of actions would be for the members individually and collectively is to familiarise themselves with the documents and review what we have to see how that work leads to finalising sections 5 to 10 in the Development Plan. This would specifically include the Character Appraisal which is probably one of the major resources in the information gathering. This can be found on a new Google Drive which will be shared along with a wide range of other documents, research, and preparatory papers. Some of these could be made into a pdf format, showing the most recent version and others in Word displaying the track changes showing how the document had changed over time.

Project management and work lists can be found on Trello, which will also be made available to the Group. A WhatsApp group has been set up to avoid lengthy e-mail chains for relatively short pieces of communication.

Our January meeting might start to look at allocating updates, rewrites and other tasks to move the project on. At this stage we don't know how much time we need to invest or how long the process is that would lead to completion. Once the Plan is written, it needs to be submitted to Wiltshire who will publicise it and seek comments. These may or may not lead to amendments and then the Council appoints an Examiner, who will prepare a report based on their findings. Once these recommendations are included, and the Plan is deemed satisfactory by the Examiner, it will be put out to a local referendum. Assuming a successful outcome, the plan will be brought into force and it becomes part of the statutory development plan, and applications will have to be considered in that context.

Since all of this will be tested, we need to make sure our evidence is robust and up to date, including the Housing Needs and the Community Engagement. In this context Graham Slaymaker from Hullavington may be of assistance.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm and it was noted that our next meetings were planned for 12th January 2021 and 26th January.

David Thomson