

**Northam Town Council – Minutes of the Northam Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group Meeting held by Zoom on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022**

**Present:** Cllrs Hames (Chairman), Mrs Hodson, Laws and Sargent.  
Non-Councillor Members: Mrs E Bartleman and J Smart

**In attendance:** Mr G Langton – Deputy Town Clerk.  
Three member of the public.

**2211/534 Apologies**

Apologies were received from G Allen.

**2211/535 Chairman's announcements**

The Chairman made no announcements. Cllr Mrs Hodson reported that the census figures were now available for public access.

**2211/536 Declarations of interest:**

*Members were reminded that all interests should be declared prior to the item being discussed.*

**2211/537 To agree the agenda as published**

It was **resolved** to agree the agenda as published.

Proposed: Cllr Hames, Seconded Cllr Mrs Hodson (all in favour)

**2207/233 To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022.**

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

They would be signed at a later date.

Proposed: Cllr Sargent, Seconded: Cllr Mrs Hodson (all in favour).

**2207/234 Public Participation**

*It was announced that members of the public were permitted to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. Each member of the public would be entitled to speak once only in respect of business itemised on the agenda and should not speak for more than 4 minutes. The period of time which is designated for public participation in accordance with standing orders shall not exceed 20 minutes.*

The member of the public addressed the Group regarding the required statement of community engagement, noting that he was able to prepare a draft on which the Group could build, which would be shared via the Deputy Town Clerk.

He also offered to assist with the review of the policy and supporting text of the main body of the Plan.

Mr Arnold offered his services as an unpaid 'consultant' to the group, to support it through the review and drafting stages of the Plan.

Finally, he passed the regret on to the Group from a second member of the public, who had been unable to attend the meeting.

The Chairman thanks Mr Arnold for his assistance and offer to help in the future. The process for this would be investigated by him and the Deputy Town Clerk.

**Action point: Cllr Hames and Deputy Town Clerk to explore how Mr Arnold may be able to assist the Group fore formally.**

**2207/235 To consider the action points.**

It was noted that the draft *statement of community engagement* and *basic conditions statement* would be presented to the August 32022 meeting of the Group.

It was reported that Cllr Hames had shared the previous feedback information he held amongst group members and that action was therefore complete.

The remainder of the action points were noted.

**2207/236 To consider feedback and recommendations from the Working Group regarding the incorporation of the feedback from:**

- i. **Torrige District Council Officers.**
- ii. **Members of the Public.**

**The Group considered the first two points together, noting the acceptance or otherwise of the presented revised policy wording as follows:**

POLICY: CF1 COMMUNITY FACILITIES - rewording accepted.

POLICY: HO1 SIZE OF DWELLINGS - rewording accepted.

POLICY: HO2 NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING - to be renamed "Viability

Assessments for Affordable Housing. The rewording of the remainder was accepted.

POLICY: HO3 NEW, REDEVELOPED AND REPLACEMENT DWELLINGS

POLICY: HO4 QUALITY OF DESIGN - these two policies were to be combined, and renamed "Quality of residential design and amenity". The revised wording was accepted but the Group considered that more detail regarding blocks of flats/apartments may be required.

POLICY: HO5 ENERGY CONSERVATION AND CARBON REDUCTION

- the Group considered that some review of the wording was required, with a focus on the policy at 1(c) and that portions of other policies may usefully be moved here. The remainder of the amendments were accepted.

POLICY: TR1 RESIDENTIAL PARKING PROVISION - the Group considered that the detail of the policy required further review.

POLICY: HO7 RESIDENTIAL CARE AND NURSING HOMES - The Group were in favour of removing the whole policy, the matter being sufficiently well covered by the Local Plan 2031, though detail of the points would need to be included in a future draft of the Plan.

POLICY: EN1 LOCAL GREEN SPACES - the Group considered that Knapp Wood did meet the criteria for Local Green Space designation, thus would be retained, Burrough Farm would need to be added. It was noted that the criteria for the inclusion of each space may usefully be included in an appendix. The remainder of the amendments were accepted.

POLICY: EN2 PREVENTION OF COALESCENCE - rewording accepted.

POLICY: EN3 PROTECTING RURAL AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTER - rewording accepted.

POLICY: EN4 PROTECTING VALUED VIEWS - rewording accepted.

POLICY: HE1 PROTECTION OF HERITAGE ASSETS - Cllr Sargent offered to coordinate the drawing up of a list of local heritage assets, listed and unlisted, in consultation with the Group and the wider community as required, noting the reasons for listing as an appendix to the Plan.

**Action point: Deputy Town Clerk to share the criteria for listing with the Group.**

**Action point: Cllr Sargent to liaise with members of the Group and wider community to draw the list together for review at a future meeting.**

POLICY: EN5 PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY - the wording would be reviewed with reference to the findings of the appeal inspector in dismissing the proposal at Bloody Corner, the first clause would be moved to reporting text.

POLICY: TR2 CYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ROUTES - Remove clause (iii). Revised wording for clause (iv) 'The creation of a dedicated cycle and pedestrian route separated from traffic from Heywood Roundabout...'

POLICY: TR3: PUBLIC TRANSPORT - the policy would be removed, with detail being inserted into policy HO5 to support the aims of that policy, with the wording 'Provision must be made for accessible public transport to serve all new developments'.

POLICY: ED1 BUSINESS - the wording would need to be reviewed, clause (iii) was considered to repeat the wording at Policy ED3.

POLICY: TR4 PUBLIC CAR PARKING - this policy would be revised, removing clauses (ii) and (iv).

POLICY: ED2 TOURISM ATTRACTIONS AND ACCOMMODATION. - the policy required rewording to ensure clarity.

POLICY: HE2 RICHMOND DOCK - the policy would be revised as follows:

Remove clauses (i), (ii), (iii), (v) & (vii) from the policy but retain in the supporting text. Clauses (iii) & (vii) were considered too prescriptive and alternative text would be proposed.

Retain clauses (iv) & (vi).

The Group considered the wording suggested by TDC Officers, "Proposals that secure the preservation of Richmond Dock will be supported provided the integrity of the structure and setting are retained" to be appropriate to include within the policy.

POLICY: ED3 APPLIEDORE EMPLOYMENT ZONE - the policy had been be revised by Cllr Hames and would be circulated amongst the group in advance of the next meeting.

**Action point: Cllr Hames to circulate revised text.**

It was **resolved** to accept the amendments and note the requirements for the next phase of work as detailed above.

Proposed: Cllr Hames, Seconded: Cllr Laws (all in favour)

**iii. The working group regarding the community profile.**

This matter was deferred to the August 2022 meeting of the Group.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed ..... Dated.....

