

Wells Neighbourhood Plan Working Party

Minutes

Friday 14th January 2022 10am via Zoom

Present: Roger Arguile (RA-Chair), Cheryl Curtis (CC), Lindsay Dew (DF), David Fennell (DF), John Edwards (JE), Nichola Holmes (NH), Andrea Long (AL), Peter Rainsford (PR)
Rachel Leggett (RL) joined the meeting at 11.45am

- 1. Apologies:** Received from Greg Hewitt (GH)
Jacqueline Gray (JG) and Jimmy Tottle (JT) unable to join Zoom meetings.
- 2. Minutes of last meeting, 9.12.21**
Accepted as a true record.
- 3. Matters arising**
There were no matters arising which were not covered by the Agenda items below.
- 4. Review of housing policies following the meeting with Holkham Estate on 9.12.21**
The working party exchanged their understanding and impressions of the informal meeting held at the Holkham Estate Office on 9th December, specifically the ideas suggested by Peter Mitchell in response to the draft NP housing policies. As no written information or plans were presented with regard to the site at Warham Rd., RA will draft a letter (AL to assist) requesting clarification in writing of the Holkham Estate's proposals.
Further consideration of the NP housing policies to be paused until the new draft of NNDC's Local Plan is published.
- 5. Review of NDHA and LGS work**
On January 7th, a focus group comprising RA, CC, JE, AL and PR working on the NDHA and LGS lists produced final drafts for review by the NPWP. The lists were approved, subject to some last details. AL will prepare the documents for appending to the NP.
- 6. Review of first section of the Environment and Tourism policies - AL**
AL has begun work on refining the draft policies for Environment and Tourism in Wells and her text so far was circulated earlier this week. She is taking into account the results of October's public consultation, plus the recent notes from Holkham Estate. The working party asked for more time to examine the text so AL will continue developing this section for consideration at the next meeting.
- 7. AECOM assessment of site options revised draft - AL**
Following extensive feedback from WNPWP on AECOM's first draft of the site options report, a revised draft was received on November 26th accompanied by explanatory notes from the report supervisor. The working party are disappointed that the report still contains significant inaccuracies and inconsistencies. AL confirmed that the AECOM report is an advisory document only. Its receipt will be noted and AECOM's work will be circulated to WTC members for the next Town Council meeting on February 7th.
- 8. Design Code – WNPWP sign off proposed – RL joined the Zoom meeting at this point**
Ben Castell (AECOM) has asked for any final amendments to WNPWP's Design Code. RL has sent him the proofread notes from November but there are still a few points to be agreed before the document can be signed off. RL asked working party members to reread it and send their comments to her by Friday January 21st for inclusion in the finished Design Code.

9. Timetable for NP progress - RL

RL shared with NPWP a revised timetable for progress on the NP. She will circulate the slides used at this meeting via email for future reference.

The suggested timetable (subject to site allocation work) is as follows:

Jan-Mar 2022: completion of policy work and layout of the NP. NPWP and AL to continue working on the policies, RL to start mapping and layout work.

End March: draft NP for sign off by WNPWP

April 4th 2022: WTC sign off

End April: Pre-submission (6 week) statutory consultation on the draft NP and another public consultation exhibition

After this, the Wells NP will have its final amendment and the submission documents will be prepared.

A.O.B.

Funding: RL has enquired with Locality about NP funding for the next financial year.

The current 4 year funding cycle finishes at the end of March 2022. An announcement is awaited for 2022/23. Locality opened their books for 2021/22 a few weeks into April last year. This may be the case again. If new funding is available this will have to be applied for. RL will contact GH to discuss as necessary. There is still a budget allocation from WTC to bridge a gap, as happened last year, so that work on the Wells NP continues uninterrupted.

Emerging Local Plan: When the new draft of NNDC's Local Plan is published, WTC will have an opportunity to respond to the proposals for Wells.

Date of next meeting

Friday February 4th, 10.30am via Zoom.

Meeting closed 12.10pm

NH