

Amport Parish Council

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting 14 Jul 23

Record of Decisions

Attendance:

Diana Stephenson (DS), Chair

Tim Grimshaw (TG), Secretary

Clare Hemmings Fox Rodney (CH), Weyhill Rep

In attendance:

Sarah Hughes (SH), TVBC

Sharon De Bru (nee Brentnall) (SB), Consultant (Bluestone Planning) by Zoom

Apologies: George Foster (GF)

1. **Introduction.** The Chair welcomed members to this, the fifth NPSG. She welcomed Sarah Hughes, as our link to TVBC for Neighbourhood Planning. The principal purpose of this meeting was to agree the principal findings from the NP Survey; the Report from Bluestone Planning had been circulated to SG members with the calling notice, for their review.

2. **Record of Last Meeting and actions.** The meeting agreed the record of the last meeting on 23 Apr 23. **Action:** DS to provide a copy of the record to APC (Council) for information (**Afternote:** complete) and for posting on the Council's website.

3. **Matters Arising.** TG summarised progress on actions from the meeting on 13 Apr 23 not covered elsewhere in the agenda:

- The draft plan for developing the NP would be addressed in the next two months. The SG discussed possible completion dates (defined as the NP approved by the community at a Referendum) and agreed it was a long-term endeavour. **Action:** SB agreed to provide a draft framework (excel spreadsheet) to help support the development of the plan.

- Advice from SB on a potential challenge to the developments proposed on the Local Plan, particularly the least sustainable, was pending TVBC decisions.

- The action to ask APC to look at the suitability and state of repair of the Weyhill Parish Notice Board had been addressed at the last APC Meeting (**action transferred to APC**).

- A Parish Council Facebook site had been established and key messages would be agreed once we had an active communications lead. **Action:** CH agreed to speak with Alex O'Neill to ascertain his possible level of commitment.

- TG had circulated for comment a revised draft NPSG Terms of Reference (ToR) with the calling notice, for discussion at this meeting. (see para 5)

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4. **NP Survey Report.** The Sec had submitted the Report for review by SG members before the meeting. SB summarised the key aspects of the Report.

a. SB noted that some responses had been provided by those outside the Parish boundaries; the only constraint is that to vote on the NP in the referendum, you must be resident in the Parish.

b. SH noted TVBC's aspiration, articulated in their Local Plan, was to develop *balanced and sustainable communities* and within the Policy framework, where possible to respect the communities' wishes. She emphasised that it was important that the community understood the planning policy framework in the Local Plan, for example the relationship between settlement boundaries, conservation areas, green spaces and how they influenced potential plans for future housing. SH also emphasised the role of the Parish Council in influencing such issues, for example by defining future housing needs (e.g. appetite for housing, housing size and design codes), through the NP and in making routine planning recommendations. The SG agreed that it would be important to understand what the role of the NP was, and the Parish Council, Borough Council and Hampshire County Council roles, to avoid giving *false hope* that something identified in the NP would automatically be achieved. The SG agreed to address these issues in the *community engagement* sessions.

c. SH noted that some policies in the NP might need to be specific to each of the villages. TG noted that the proposal in the ToR to form village *working groups* to inform the SG's development of the NP supported this concept, as the WGs could drill down into issues raised in the Survey that they felt more relevant to their part of the community and make recommendations.

d. SH recommended a '*Housing Needs Survey*' should be completed by TVBC for APC, to support the development of the NP and inform the Council's future housing plans. **Action:** DS to discuss with Council the recommendation for a Parish '*Housing Needs Survey*'.

e. The SG approved the Report and noted it provided essential direction for subsequent neighbourhood planning.

f. The meeting agreed the principal findings from the Survey:

- There had been strong community engagement (285 people) and coverage across the Parish;
- The community is committed to shaping their future, for example through the NP;
- There had been significant engagement from Weyhill (feeling 'marginalised'), EC to a lesser extent;
- There was strong opposition to proposed developments in Weyhill (perceived 'imbalance' across Test Valley and the Parish);
- Respondents gave a strong sense of *maintaining the rural status quo*;

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- There was support for Hawk Conservancy (some suggested that the Hawk Conservancy should engage with the community more) and for Amport House development;
- The Survey had provided a strong engagement platform for the development of the NP (e.g. through additional volunteers);
- The community saw potential for stronger role for the Parish Council and closer engagement with stakeholders.

5. **NPSG Ways of Working.** The SG agreed to recommend the draft Terms of Reference for approval by Council, and asked DS to circulate them to APC, for approval at their next Meeting on 17 Jul 23. **Action:** DS to circulate the Draft ToR to Council (**Afternote:** complete). **Action:** TG (in DS's absence at the Council meeting) to seek approval for the NPSG Terms of Reference from Council on 17 Jul 23.

6. **Future Plans.** Current proposals:

- **Now to Sep 23.** Continue to build the formal membership of the NPSG and its supporting working and specialist groups. TG had approached those that had volunteered to help planning and circulated to SG members the up-to-date list. **Action:** SG members agreed to review the list of potential volunteers and assess where they might help best. The SG agreed it was important that potential volunteers knew that specialist expertise was not essential, and whilst preparation of the NP was a long-term endeavour, it would be possible for volunteers to 'dip in and out' from supporting the development of the NP.
- **Community Engagement.** Community engagement was essential; not least to evidence the community's aspirations in the NP and start shaping the NP. The SG agreed initially to focus feedback to the community at one Community Engagement Meeting on Wed 13 Sep 23. **Actions:**
 - CH agreed to arrange the venue (Weyhill Community Centre proposed) and arrange light refreshments (APC cover the small associated costs).
 - TG and CH would notify the Weyhill and East Cholderton communities. DS agreed to notify Amport, through the Council and on social media.
 - SB agreed to prepare a draft concept for the meeting.
 - SH agreed to consider what TVBC input would be possible and coordinate with SB.

7. **Any Other Business.**

- **Consultant support.** SB and SH noted that the new consultant's grant period had not yet been opened by government. DS noted that she had bid for funds in the APC precept for NP consultant support and that she would seek Council's approval to bridge the funding gap until the grant had been agreed. **Action:** DS to seek APC approval for funds the next quarter's consultancy support for (Jul-Sep 23). **Afternote:** tabled for discussion at APC's meeting on 17 Jul 23.
- **Next Meeting.** It was agreed that the next meeting should be at 9am on 28 Sep 23, to assess feedback from the community engagement meeting. SG agreed it was beneficial that TVBC attended future NPSG meetings. **Action:** TG to convene next NPSG meeting.