



Northam Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting
Monday 12 March 2018, 7pm

A minutes' silence was given in memory of Cllr Mike Durkin, who passed away recently. Our thoughts are with his family and friends. He will be greatly missed. The family have invited all who knew Mike to attend a service, celebrating his life. This will take place at Holy Trinity Church, Westward Ho! at 2.30pm on Wednesday 25 April 2018, followed by a reception at Kingsley Hall at 3.30pm.

Present

Cllr Chris Leather (Chair), Peter Jeffrey, Peter Sawyer, Cllr Ken Davies, Graham Ash, Phil Hodson (PHo), Cllr Hugh Brading, Jose Emberton, Angie Whitaker, Roger Levick, Rev. Derek Arnold, Maria Bailey Jo Johnson, Jane Mills (Clerk)

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, a special welcome to Derek Arnold, who was attending for the first time.

2. Apologies

Cllr Peter Hames (PHa)

3. Minutes

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record, proposed by Peter Sawyer, seconded by Jane Mills.

4. Discussion on Survey Responses and Data Analysis (from email circulated 5 April 2018)

MB lead the group through a power point of the results that were circulated prior to the meeting. The analysis will be circulated again with these minutes.

Return: The results showed that there had been a 5% return rate, spread across the 4 areas. MB confirmed that compared with other Neighbourhood Plan process she was currently involved with, this was a good response.

Time Lived in Area: The time people had lived within the area had a good cross section.

Age Range: The age range was heavily weighted towards the older range reflecting the elderly demographic in all areas. The second questionnaire succeeded in targeting younger age groups.

Key Issues: Both questionnaires had the same three top outcomes; Healthcare, Green Spaces and Transport. The next stage is developing objectives and subject areas. This will be followed by a second consultation event once we have the draft policies in place.

It was suggested that those in housing need hadn't responded and the results are not a true reflection of the current situation. JM confirmed that NTC have recently carried out a housing needs survey that will feed into this plan. It was also suggested that the NHS is currently in the news and at the forefront of people's minds. A correlation can also be drawn between the age profile of the area and healthcare need.

Values: The environment was a clear lead, closely followed by community and village life. Safety is valued.

Concerns: The key issues here were Development, Traffic and Parking. Traffic issues specifically were also reflected in the thoughts and knowledge of those present. CL reiterated the need to identify areas for possible development within the plan. The SHLAA identifies sites, some have been adopted, others not and haven't been included in the emerging Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan can't stop those sites already highlighted but need to look at other sites for the future and safeguard specific green areas.

PS stated that some of these concerns were as of now and are being addressed ie parking with Westward Ho!, and that some of the issues will change throughout the course of the Plan.

There was support in identifying and protecting green spaces in the area, but also some concern that the Local Authority have a predetermined agenda with regard to development. The Chair reiterated the need for the Neighbourhood Plan, which will sit alongside the Local Plan, making very clear those sites available for development, or not.

A question was raised in respect of whether 'travel' is in scope of the plan. For example, possible routes for traffic, need for car parking, bus timetable. MB responded by saying there will be a number of areas that are out of scope of the Neighbourhood Plan. These can be addressed by the Town Council, or added as an addendum to the Plan, giving further evidence for our partners, ie NHS, Police, bus companies etc. It was confirmed that a separate process would be needed to change the route of traffic or propose a Park and Ride scheme, using a Traffic Regulation Order. The information we gather could be used as strong evidence for other authorities. In relation to identifying a need for car parking; if we can provide evidence and show a clear need for parking arrangements, this can be allocated areas within the plan.

5. Confirmation of Vision, Aims and Objectives for the Northam Neighbourhood Plan

The Steering Group discussed the format of the aims and objectives and whether or not an individual vision statement was needed for all areas. It was finally agreed that there should be one vision ... *'To maintain and enhance individual characteristics of Northam, Orchard Hill, Appledore and Westward Ho!'*. The objectives will cross all areas, however will have detailed subsections for each locale reflecting the unique character of each area.

The objectives were:

Development

- Ensure that new developments include a mix of housing to meet the needs of local people; providing affordable properties to both buy and rent
- Affordable, social specific, design, size
- Ensure that new housing developments are designed to be in keeping with the existing characters of the area to create a strong sense of place.
- Restriction of new build holiday homes (St Ives model), to safeguard the sustainability of the settlements by restricting the development of new build holiday homes

Environment

- Implementation of trees and footpaths, specific to each area

- Protection of green spaces and heritage assets that aren't listed
- To protect and maintain existing green spaces of value to the community
- To protect and enhance buildings and spaces of heritage value, ensuring that Northam remains a culturally rich place to live and visit
- Maintain green space between the settlements

Infrastructure

- Business development sites (currently there are none in Northam Ward)
- Protection to shipyard, possible use of the redundant areas within the shipyard
- Protecting and utilisation of Richmond Dock

Tourism

- Encourage smaller retail businesses
- Cycle routes from Bideford to Westward Ho! along the old railway route

6. Setting Up Sub Groups, Based on Data Received

The Steering Group were asked to consider which area they would like to work on and whether there was anyone outside of the Group with a specific interest that would be happy to be involved.

MB agreed to circulate the Northam section of the emerging Local Plan to the steering group.

7. Any Other Business

PHo thanked all those involved in putting the analysis together.

8. Next Meeting

The next Steering Group Meeting will take place on 14 May 2018.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm