



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

1. Present

Cllr Chris Leather (Chair), Peter Jeffrey, Peter Sawyer, Cllr Mike Durkin, Cllr Ken Davies, Graham Ash, Phil Hodson (PHo), Jo Johnson, Jane Mills (Clerk)

2. Apologies

Cllr Peter Hames (PHa), Cllr Hugh Brading, Jose Emberton, Angie Whitaker, Roger Levick, Maria Bailey

3. Minutes

Cllr Davies wishes for his apologies to be included in the minutes of 5 February 2018, otherwise, they were agreed to be a true and accurate record.

4. Survey Responses and Data Analysis

KD questioned the validity of the Neighbourhood Plan after being aware of the Parish Plan process not holding any weight in planning decisions. The Chair confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan was a completely different document. It sits alongside the Local Plan and will have legal status when planning decisions are made.

MD reported that a further 200 responses had been received from the second round of consultation. 65 of those responses were online and a higher percentage of under 50's responded. For the purposes of the initial report, the results are based on 100 random surveys analysed so far.

The main areas are as follows, although the last 3 categories are very close indeed and with the analysis of the remaining questionnaires, this may well alter.

1. Green Spaces and Leisure
2. Health and Leisure
3. Transport Roads and Pathways
4. Busses and Tourism
5. Schools/Nursery's and Childcare
6. Housing
7. Technology and Renewable Energy

MD went on to say that there were many comments relating to:

- Keeping the villages distinct and separate
- Maintaining a village feel in all 4 areas
- Green spaces needed in proposed developments in Appledore and Northam
- Young people not being able to afford to buy locally

CL had researched Neighbourhood Plan documents from other areas to ascertain the areas that were addressed and the policies to support them. He also said confirmed that the questionnaires will provide the evidence base for the emerging Northam Neighbourhood Plan. He tabled a list of possible issues to form planning policies (attached).

The Neighbourhood Plan can recommend future housing sites; the density and type of housing, second home restrictions on newbuilds, as well as having a robust green strategy, working with the NPPF in supporting the green infrastructure.

It was requested that the Steering Group acquire a copy of the emerging Local Plan (LP) and a copy of the SHLAA housing sites in the Northam Parish area to identify current sites and so as not to conflict with any decisions that have already been made. The working groups can also identify where there are other possible development sites. JM agreed to locate a copy of the LP and SHLAA.

Discussions took place on the decisions made by the Planning Inspector on specific sites around Appledore through the emerging Local Plan adoption process.

There was agreement in locating and promoting industrial sites/units for light industry use, leading to job opportunities within the area. There was a suggestion that PETROC be approached regarding 'incubator units' for students leaving college with aspirations of starting their own business. Other areas that would be promoted were education facilities and the fishing industry. This could tie in with the protection of heritage assets and associated skills ie Richmond Dock.

It was confirmed that broadband widths can be suggested within a plan, in the context of any new housing development being able to have full fibre broadband capabilities.

Walkways and heritage trails were discussed with the possibility of looking at a cycle route from Bideford through Appledore to Westward Ho! along the old railway track.

5. Next Stages

MD will forward Jo the results of the analysis for circulation to the Steering Group.

MB will have an initial look at policies before the next meeting.

At the next meeting, Aims, Objectives and Policy areas will be considered.

6. Next Meeting

The next Steering Group Meeting will take place on 9 April 2018.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm

Some possible issues to form planning policies around

- **Quality of design, style and materials**
- **Parking provision on new housing sites.**
- **Protection and enhancement of the natural environment and landscape.**
- **Designated Local Green Spaces.**
- **Provision of Cycleways/Walkways**
- **Support for Community Energy Initiatives.**
- **Use of Community Infrastructure Levies (CIL)**
- **Development of Shops, Workshops & Business Units.**
- **Protection of Heritage Assets and their settings.**
- **Provision of Community Facilities.**
- **Broadband speed to new developments.**
- **Size of Dwellings**