



**Northam Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting**  
**Monday 3 September 2018, 7pm**

**1. Present**

Cllr Chris Leather (Chair), Cllr Peter Hames, Cllr Ken Davies, Joy Smart, Val Deering, Graham Ash, Phil Hodson (PHo), Nick Arnold, Maria Bailey, Jo Johnson, Jane Mills (Clerk)

**2. Apologies**

Cllr Hugh Brading, Cllr Nick Law, Jose Emberton, Angie Whitaker

Pete Sawyer sent notification to the Steering Group of his wish to resign from the group for personal reasons.

It had been noted that recently Appledore had been over represented compared to the other areas. The Steering Group felt that the current membership was sufficient.

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of 13 August 2018 were agreed to be a true and accurate record.

**4. Sub Group Updates with Initial Draft Policies**

All groups should endeavour to compile their policies in the same format. This will save time further along the process. A template can be found on the Dropbox Account.

CL reiterated that his aspiration for the Northam Neighbourhood Plan was for it to be a brief and succinct document. MB reinforced this and added the Plan had to avoid duplication.

A reference to the Local Plan glossary can be made with additions in the Neighbourhood Plan where words differ.

**Housing and Development**

**Residential Care and Nursing Homes**

CL and PHa took the Group through the comments on the Residential Care and Nursing Homes section.

Concern was raised about the many additional points that had been suggested that would lengthen the Housing and Development section considerably.

After discussion, the following points were agreed:

1. That 5 sqm per person of personal open space is still to be included.
2. The suggestion of relation to the public transport service should be kept but should now read 'They are well related to the public transport service and within reasonable walking distance of services'.

3. The line relating to coalescence was discussed at length. The existing wording implies that a proposed site outside the development boundary would be considered if it were a 'logical extension to the existing built up area'. It was felt that the suggested item 'They do not prejudice other policies of the NNP relating to coalescence and development in the Undeveloped Coast' would protect the green space between the villages more robustly and close any loop-holes. It was agreed that this should be included but within the Environment and Green Spaces Policy.

The Housing Group will meet separately before the next meeting to pull together the policies as discussed.

## Tourism, Business and Infrastructure

### **Employment and Business**

CL made the Steering Group aware that there are currently no sites in the emerging Local Plan for any business developments in the Neighbourhood Plan area. He suggested that our plan could promote small start-up units or 'incubator units' on brownfield sites. To give the Employment and Business Aim more weight, it was suggested that the word 'sustainable' should be included.

After discussion, the following points were agreed:

- Need to confirm whether the Shipyard is mentioned within the emerging Local Plan. If not, it will need to be included within our plan and the promotion of shipbuilding in the area.
- Need to identify brownfield sites, as recognised by Torridge Council
- In Employment Opportunities Policy, take out the wording '...or existing tourism sites ...'
- Consideration needs to be given on the coalescence issue as the Employment Opportunities Policy says '... economic need is demonstrated for development outside these areas ...'
- Policy ST09 – Protects undeveloped coast but also includes develop coast where guidelines differ.
- Each policy should state how to confirm which national and local plan policy.

### **Tourism**

The Steering Group acknowledged the difficulties surrounding the Tourism section, with regards to wanting to promote the area as a holiday destination, while maintaining the character and ecology.

Whilst transport isn't a Neighbourhood Plan issue, recommendations can be made within this section, looking at a possible coach park or park and ride scheme in Westward Ho!

This section could also include a policy looking at the conversion of existing dwellings to small hotels and guest houses.

After discussion, the following points were agreed:

- Include 'All weather tourism facilities' within the aim
- Change objective point 3 to read 'Promote and protect sustainable use of the Northam Burrows Country Park/Grazing Common.
- Include the promotion of cycleways and coast paths/bridleways

The Business, Tourism and Infrastructure Group will meet separately before the next meeting to pull together the policies as discussed.

## Green Spaces and Heritage

### **Heritage**

It was agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan should suggest a 'Local List' of historic assets for the area. TDC have discussed compiling a list, however this has yet to be done. The Group felt that they could assist by compiling their own.

It is noted that in all cases, historic justification needs to be made. NA agreed to approach the Local Historic Groups in the area, who, it is thought, would hold this information. The List would include those assets that are not specific grade listed, as those are noted and protected elsewhere.

## **5. Next Stages**

### Timetable

MB issued a new timetable. Unfortunately, this has slipped quite significantly, but in order to get it back on track the next meeting needs to cover the following:

- finalise the full draft policies
- consider any new site allocations that have been brought forward from the recent advert
- plan consultation events for November/December 2018

### Consultation Events

Consultation can be done in various forms to ensure as many people as possible are able to access the proposals. It was agreed that consultation events should be held in the 3 main areas: Appledore, Northam and Westward Ho! Examples of consultation mediums are

- Presentations
- Online Northam Town Council website
- Leaflets
- Hard Copies to view in the libraries
- Events
- Static displays, ie Town Council Offices

All comments received will need to be recorded and addressed as to whether they are supported or not with explanations.

## **6. Next Meeting**

The next Steering Group Meeting will take place on Monday 15 October 2018.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm