

# SHEPTON MALLET NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

## STEERING GROUP MEETING

Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2013

### MINUTES

Present: Matt Day, John Parham, Jeff Curtis, Anna Blackburn, Greta Marsh

Apologies: Stuart Brown, Tanya Griffiths

1. Minutes from the last meeting (15<sup>th</sup> July) were approved.
2. Matters Arising:
  - a) Matt had spoken to Don Clifford about taking on the Leadership of the Neighbourhood Plan, but he had declined.
  - b) Jeff confirmed there were no volunteers coming forwards from the Neighbourhood Watch meeting.
  - c) Terms of Reference – Tanya had asked for amendments and Matt had made changes; final version is on the NP pages of the Town Council website.
  - d) Issues List – there had been a number of comments on this at the Mid-Somerset Show which Matt had taken on-board in drafting the Objectives list. Matt felt that people's concerns over specific issues to do with the proposed Show Field site (inc access, retaining open space and flooding risk) should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan, rather than not addressing it at all.
  - e) Any Other Business – NP Area Designation. Anna advised this would start on 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. Jeff advised there had been no progress regards engaging with Bowlish School.
3. Leadership – In view of Don Clifford's decline to take on the leadership, no other names were offered. Discussion then took place on whether a "leader" was needed and Anna suggested we perhaps just needed more people to be involved. A decision was therefore made not to have a Leader, for the time being at least. Inviting people onto the Steering Group or inviting them to workshops are the two ways to involve people at present. John said he'd had an approach from Gill Kettle to join the SG; it was felt that 2 reps from Cowl St/Hillmead was enough. Matt was asked to contact Tanya and Robert to see that they were still interested in attending the SG. **Action: Matt**
4. Draft Objectives – Matt handed out a copy of the NP draft Objectives (version 1); this listed Objectives and many projects and policies to achieve these. Matt thanked Jeff, Greta and Anna for their emailed comments on the draft Objectives list.

Jeff explained his thinking on his own list of Objectives submitted (based on the Issues list) and discussion took place on these points. Anna suggested the wording had to be "positive" to development or the Plan would risk being rejected by the Examiner – Nplans are meant to be 'Pro-Growth'.

Discussion then took place on other points such as infrastructure, schools, transport, entertainment etc. John explained where funds could come from to achieve these – principally the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on developments. Matt pointed out that West Somerset Council requests CIL Funding Lists from town councils. Jeff said the most important thing was to have Objectives which were actually achievable, to deliver substantial things for Sheptonites, and that the language used needed to be understood by the majority. Matt acknowledged it had to be easy to understand, but pointed out that any Policies in the Plan had to be written in the technical language of Planning to be successful.

Matt suggested we should make a simplified draft list of Objectives, with a suggested Funding List. We may need workshops with stakeholders and NPlan participants to refine the actions to deliver some of the objectives – in particular Town Centre vitality, sports facilities and cycling routes.

Matt asked Anna about the provision/development of leisure facilities, as this was one of the main Objectives - Anna explained that provision of sports facilities was not a Statutory Responsibility of the District Council. However MDC has an Infrastructure Plan (part of the draft Local Plan).

Landowners should be identified and contacted to see if the Objectives were feasible and achievable. John was to contact the Traders Group regarding interest in the Town Centre workshop. **Action: John** Matt was to contact owners of the following sites; Anglo building, the Prison, the Telephone Exchange and the Academy/Amulet. Also to enquire re the Registry Office and Police Station. **Actions: Matt**

5. Workshops – No action taken as dependant on above.
6. Any Other Business – Matt had approached Stuart Brown and Claire Sully to explain what the Plan would like to see happen on the site. The SG would invite Claire Sully to join the SG. **Action: Matt**
7. The next meeting will be on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> October at 3.00pm, Town Council offices.

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