

Tilehurst Neighbourhood Plan

Meeting Notes

Tuesday 16 August 2016

Agenda:

- Representations from members of the public
- Welcome new member(s)
- Review current status
- Decision: Should we continue to develop the neighbourhood Plan?
 - This seems like a good time to review our progress, take stock of the current situation, weigh up the benefits and challenges and make a firm decision whether or not to continue. The potential benefits are still there: giving local people a say in the future of Tilehurst, developing a positive vision, identifying local needs, and access to higher CIL funding. Balanced against this, we have the context of the recent local planning applications and sense of where the DPD is heading; and signals from the new government are not encouraging. We now have a clearer sense of the amount of work involved, and if we decide to continue we'll need the commitment to make it happen. I do think this is a great team, and I am still enthusiastic about the concept of the Neighbourhood Plan. But I do think we need to take a step back and make sure we are all ready for the work ahead before we plough on.
- Agree next steps

Attendees:

Steering Group Members- Lynda Chater, Peter Cross, Julia Gentle, Joan Lawrie, Kevin Page
Fred Williams,

Volunteers & Other Members of the Public- Janet Haines, Tony O'Connor, Nigel and Sue
Rowland, Clive Taylor

Apologies for Absence

None received.

Notes and Actions:

REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

-None-

WELCOME NEW MEMBER(S)

Welcome to Clive Taylor and Tony O'Connor, who have both expressed an interest in joining the steering group.

REVIEW CURRENT STATUS

A wide-ranging discussion of the progress so far, the current situation, and challenges ahead.

DECISION: SHOULD WE CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN?

There was consensus that, despite the challenges we anticipate ahead, we should press ahead and continue with the plan. In order to inject some urgency **Peter will update the project plan with a revised target completion date in 2017, and put together a budget for use in urgently seeking funding.**

AGREE NEXT STEPS

We will continue to implement the plan, but with some modifications to help speed things up and make better use of the team. In the June meeting, we identified the following potential working groups:

- Business and Economy
- Amenities (inc. green spaces, sports, leisure, libraries,...)
- Education
- Health
- Infrastructure
- Transport and Traffic
- Relationship with other Authorities (WBC, Reading, AONB,...)
- Environment
- Security and Policing
- Future sites
- Communication
- Evidence Coordination
- Access

Rather than spread ourselves too thinly we will tackle a few key areas at a time:

Transport- Peter

Education- Joan and Julia

New sites- Tony

Re-engaging with West Berkshire- Fred and Kevin

The above will identify and make contact with the relevant people to start gathering relevant information. Please ensure when making contact that you are clear this is on behalf of the NDP, and keep conversations relevant to the Plan.

To assist with preparing for meetings, **Fred will send a link to the summarized community engagement feedback.**

The above will also write a short summary of the community feedback for their topic area, for use in an online newsletter/blog. As we agreed at a previous meeting, when we have a sufficient quantity of these blog articles we will create a paper newsletter for distribution in the Parish.

In discussing the path ahead, reference was made to several existing Plans that seemed to represent “best practices” (in either the Plan itself, or in the way the teams behind the Plans did their preparation).

Everyone will read the following Plans before our next meeting-

Exeter St James - <https://exeter.gov.uk/media/1777/st-james-neighbourhood-plan-2013.pdf>

Ascot & Sunningdale- <http://rbwm.objective.co.uk/file/2967876>

Stratfield Mortimer- <http://consult.westberks.gov.uk/file/3847669>

Janet will endeavour to get more information on the process followed by the Ascot and Sunningdale group.

For reference, the following sites give more details on the process.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/neighbourhood-planning>

<http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/neighbourhood-planning/>

<http://www.rtpi.org.uk/planning-aid/neighbourhood-planning/what-is-neighbourhood-planning/>

<http://locality.org.uk/projects/building-community/>

The CPRE site has some [interesting case studies](#)-

This Pinterest site has some excellent links for further reading-

<https://uk.pinterest.com/nplanning/>

Next Meeting

Draft Agenda

- Representation from Members of the Public
- Apologies for Absence
- Agree minutes of previous meeting
 - Matters arising from previous meeting minutes
- Steering Group Membership Review
 - Unless we hear otherwise before the meeting, we will assume any member not present no longer wish to play an active part as a member of the Steering Group. Everyone is welcome to participate in working groups and other voluntary tasks.

New volunteers will be invited to take up the places vacated. As a reminder, the constitution sets a maximum of 10 Steering Group members.

- Review progress with the working groups outlined above
- Share learnings after looking at best practices from existing published Plans.
- Peter to share updated plan and budget

We tentatively set a new schedule of meetings- the third Wednesday of each month, starting **Wednesday 21 September**. This is subject to the committee room being available and confirmation by Kevin.