

Minutes of the Tilehurst Parish NDP Steering Group Meeting held on 22nd Feb 2022

Present: Kevin Page, Peter Cross, Alan Wade, Julia Gentle, Joan Lawrie, Liz Alexander, Sandra Vickers, Clive Taylor, District Cllr Tony Linden

1. Apologies: Fred Williams
2. Representations by members of public. None, though Cllr Tony Linden was attending as a member of the public and during the course of the meeting updated the committee of the status of the East of Pincents U+I planning application, in so much as he was able to do so, and which still awaited written confirmation of the planning refusal.
3. Declarations of interest: None
4. Minutes of the previous meeting had been issued and were approved. Clive said he would reissue final copy to Kevin as he had noticed a couple grammatical errors.
5. Actions arising from the minutes -
 - Liz clarified that LGS did not have to have public access. This had been checked via National Planning Guidance which supports the NPPF. Liz would distribute to committee members
 - Kevin to write to WBC to formally advise of our proposal to designate WBC recreation areas as LGS

ACTION above on Kevin

6. Budget, Finance and Fundraising: Peter had nothing to report other than he awaited details of the survey monkey expenditure from Jacky. Kevin agreed to provide Peter with this information.
7. Plan Review (and related matters):

Kevin advised that Calcot Golf Course had requested to speak to the next Parish Council Meeting concerning the proposed LGS designation. This had been agreed and they would address the Parish Council at its March 2022 Meeting.

A general discussion took place around housing numbers, the two Pincents applications, possible development at Calcot Golf Course and speculation that Reading Borough might look to the West Berks areas of Reading to achieve their housing numbers. There was uncertainty in all of these areas but this could be discussed at the forthcoming NDP meeting with Bryan Lyttle in March.

Kevin reminded the meeting that we would look at any new sites in the HELAA but a new HELAA wasn't imminent (expected summer at the earliest). Given that Pincents U+I proposal has been now refused we should now challenge the 175 figure for Tilehurst Parish. It remained difficult to see how we could allocate sites in the present circumstances.

Kevin proposed that we press ahead with the current plan and start to prepare for the next stages of consultation (regulation 14). Liz volunteered to check the regulations as to consultation requirements and report back. We needed to think about how we ask questions on the plan utilising both on-line and off-line access for the public. Kevin would prepare a draft set of consultation questions. A public display/open day session or two (probably one at Calcot and one at Cornwell) would need to be arranged. Kevin would send the original display board info from the NDP launch to Alan who would review and draft updates for the new display. The need to make access to the consultation smart phone-compatible was also important. Kevin to check with Parish office on possible dates for the open days.

ACTIONS in above para on Liz, Kevin and Alan

Kevin mentioned the need at some point to “smarten up” the NDP but it was agreed to do this between the next consultation stage and the formal consultation that would then follow. Discussion took place around obtaining photos including ariel photography. Lynda may be able help us with this. Various photo ideas were discussed.

Also need to produce a new flyer. Clive advised that the next Tilehurst Directory would not be distributed until early May with ready to print date by around 16th April. Clive would check with the Directory to see if they could distribute again and report back.

ACTION: Clive

We would therefore aim to start the consultation from 1st May until 1st July end date which would cover an 8-week period.

It was noted that some minor NDP changes would be needed prior to the consultation mainly covering the Pincents Hill planning refusal (if confirmed).

ACTION: Alan/Peter

Sandra asked several questions concerning potential development Calcot Golf Course and the availability of related information but these couldn't be answered as no planning application had been submitted at this stage and Tilehurst Parish would not be formally consulted until an application had been submitted. Clive pointed out that Freedom of Information requests could be submitted by an individual to WBC to see if information could be released.

Discussion took place relating to the Pincents Manor application which the Parish Council had made some comments on but had not objected. It had not as yet appeared on the Eastern Area Committee agenda and if it went to committee the Council would have to decide whether to make further representations.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 16th March 2022, 7.30pm at the Calcot Centre