

**Minutes of the Tilehurst Parish NDP Steering Group Meeting held on 15th March 2023  
at the Cornwell Centre**

1. **Present:** Kevin Page, Alan Wade, Julia Gentle, Liz Alexander
2. **Representations from Members of the public:** None
3. **Apologies:** Peter Cross, Clive Taylor, Joan Laurie, Sandra Vickers
4. **Declarations of Interest:** None
5. **Minutes of Last Meeting:** Agreed as a true record
6. **Matters Arising:** None
7. **Budget and Finance** - Nothing to report

8. **The NDP - Regulation 14 Consultation Further Update**

A zoom meeting was held with Umrah Mahadik and Robert Paddison of WBC with Kevin, Clive and Liz representing the Steering Group on 24 February. There was very little constructive help or additions. In fact, Robert appeared to be extremely unhelpful and almost obstructive. He stated that policies were not valid but failed to say, when asked, which policies, how they were not valid, or to help prioritize the policies needing modification. He said that we should review other NDPs but again did not say which ones. Kevin felt that this meeting took us potentially backwards.

Subsequent telephone calls between Kevin and Umrah have been more constructive. Umrah said that Bryan Lyttle has started re-reading our NDP and would comment further.

**ACTION** Kevin agreed to send Brian and Umrah our latest version 1.05 and set up a meeting with Umrah and Bryan (and possibly Laila) in the next couple of weeks.

A copy of the Feedback Spreadsheet was sent to Umrah to show what responses we had made to all their previous comments. The question still has not been resolved whether a repeat Regulation 14 consultation is needed after making changes.

**ACTION** Liz volunteered to speak with Locality about any organisations that have undertaken a second Regulation 14.

In a third telephone call Umrah suggested that we reconsider the use of a Consultant. The Steering Group has yet to see evidence that a consultant would add any expertise or value not already provided by members of the group, particularly Liz with her extensive experience of Neighbourhood Planning.

Umrah also informed Kevin that her contract and that of Robert were not being renewed and they would leave WBC at the end of March.

## **9. NP Update.**

The current version of our NP is 1.05 but is still in need of some updates to the maps. Kevin said these were nearly complete.

**ACTION** Kevin to complete the maps and upload them to Teams

## **10. District Parish Councils Conference Planning Update Presentation**

Amongst other things, Local Plans were discussed in relation to the latest Government ideas on Neighbourhood Plans. A proposal has been made by Government to introduce a slimmed down version of a NDP called a Neighbourhood Priorities Statement. This did not appear to carry the legal weight of NDP policies and given the significant work we had done on our Plan, it was decided that we would not go down this path. although

**ACTION** The slide pack from this conference will be put onto Teams

**ACTION** Kevin was exploring a different collaboration platform as Microsoft would be charging for Teams at the end of March.

Liz said that there were some draft changes to the NPPF where the Neighbourhood Plans life before review would be extended from 2 years to 5 years with a longer 'protection'.

**ACTION** Liz agreed to check this with Locality.

## **11. Next meeting: The next monthly meeting would be at 7.30pm Wednesday 19th April 2023 at the Cornwell Centre**

## **12. The meeting closed at 20.15**