

Warminster Neighbourhood Plan

Approved Minutes - Steering Group Meeting Wednesday 8th May 2024, 10am Warminster Civic Centre

1. Attendance

Cllr. Phil Keeble (Chair), Cllr. Sue Fraser, Harriet James, Len Turner, Tom Dommett, Clare Collier.

Apologies

Cllr Stacie Allensby, Cllr Jack Jones, Jon Ellis, Jeremy Stadward.

2. Approval of the minutes from the last meeting

A query regarding the minutes was raised regarding whether Special Landscape Areas would be removed as part of the Local Plan review.

Action: Wiltshire Council to be contacted to clarify the situation.

Sophie Davies from Wiltshire Council confirmed that the intention is to replace Special Landscape Areas with the new character area approach and landscape strategy. The minutes have been amended to reflect this.

Tom stated the Brook Street landowner had confirmed that the developer is no longer interested in purchasing the site.

3. Update on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) report

A second draft of the report has recently been received. Advice from Place Studio and Wiltshire Council will be sought to respond to a couple of the queries raised by the consultants who are producing the report.

An additional SEA will need to be undertaken once the Site Assessment process has been undertaken.

4. Site Allocation: Call for Sites

Place Studio and Wiltshire Council have provided guidance on the Call for Sites process. Supporting documents and promotional material are being finalised. Wiltshire Council will share the Warminster Call for Sites information with their Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment contacts.

It was noted that a site doesn't have to be proposed by the landowner, however, the landowner would need to be informed if their land was put forward. The sites can be proposed from anywhere within the parish boundary. Proposed sites will need to be assessed and a site selection undertaken. These stages will need to be undertaken with the assistance from consultants. Technical support funding can be applied for once the Call for Sites process has been completed.

The Steering Group was asked to forward contact details of landowners that may be interested in receiving the Call for Sites information. Len suggested a landowner at Grovelands and Wainwright Homes.

Len thought the old town hall façade could be saved, the rest of the building and units behind (along Weymouth Street) could potentially be re-developed. A proposal to develop the site could be put forward to Wiltshire Council by the town council. The development may need to be supported with compulsory purchase powers.

Action: Clare to undertake land registry searches on properties along Weymouth Street and the town hall.

The Steering Group agreed that the Call for Sites process should proceed, commencing before the end of May. Site proposals can be submitted within a six-week period.

5. Expansion of Steering Group membership

It was agreed that the Steering Group would benefit from gaining additional members. It was suggested that topic group members could be approached and a request for new volunteers posted on social media.

Councillors to be nominated to the Steering Group at the Annual Meeting on 22/5/24. Meetings may need to be scheduled in the evening depending on availability of individuals. A catch-up session would need to be held to bring new recruits up to speed with the Neighbourhood Plan review work undertaken to date.

Action: Tom to write general article to highlight role of Wiltshire Council, Warminster Town Council and an update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

6. AOB

Community Projects – Since the last Steering Group meeting, no additional suggestions have been put forward as potential community projects to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. Most suggestions are based around the Environment, Heritage and Design topic. Phil suggested that the ‘safe space with teenagers’ work could be included.

Matter to be discussed further once new members have been recruited.

7. Date of next meeting

To be arranged for mid-June.