

Warminster Neighbourhood Plan

Approved Minutes of the Steering Group Meeting Wednesday 25th June, 2pm Warminster Civic Centre

1. **Attendees:** Harriet James, Len Turner, Nick Earle, Sam Hill, Vaughan Thompson (Place Studio), Tom Dommett and Clare Collier.
Apologies: Cllr Keeble, Cllr Jones, Cllr Lee, Cllr Cooper, Cllr Pirie, Iain Perkins, Lorraine Dobbins, Jeremy Stadward, Jon Ellis and Peter Ruscoe.

2. **Approval of the minutes from the last meeting, 20th May 2025**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, subject to the following amendment:

On page 2, the statement “Members voted in favour of all three sites” should be corrected to read “The majority of members voted in favour of all three sites.”

3. **Presentation of additional site allocation report by Place Studio**

Tom reported that he had attended the Ashley Coombe residents’ meeting. The main concerns raised by attendees were loss of green fields, increased traffic and poor vehicular access, lack of infrastructure in town as a whole.

The group discussed how best to engage residents regarding the Land East of the Dene and Ashley Coombe Sites. Members agreed it was essential to:

- Give residents the opportunity to voice their concerns
- Communicate the benefits of site allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan
- Open a constructive dialogue with residents
- Minimise objections through mitigation measures

It was agreed the following approach would be taken:

1. Steering Group to meet with land promoters prior to residents’ meetings:
 - Online meeting to be held in the evening, suggested date - week commencing 30th June.
2. Two separate public engagements meetings to be held:
 - One for Ashley Coombe site, one for Land East of the Dene Site.
 - Up to 20 residents to be invited to each meeting, representing views from the relevant site.
 - Meeting to be held at the Civic Centre.
 - Ward and Wiltshire Councillors to be invited, along with selected Steering Group members.
 - Chaired by Cllr Phil Keeble if available, facilitated by Place Studio.
 - Option for members of the public to join online and listen in.
 - Room setup: Cabaret style with 3 to 4 tables mixing residents, councillors and steering group members.
 - Format – short introduction to set out higher level issues about the Warminster Neighbourhood Plan and recognition of sensitivities. Each table to identify key concerns. Invite residents to suggest potential mitigation measures.
 - Key issues highlighted to be responded to in the draft plan at Regulation 14.

- A 'take-away' information sheet to be provided detailing key points.

3. Follow-up meeting to be held with land promoters to provide feedback from resident engagement meetings.

Place Studio advised that a separate meeting should be arranged with Bishopstrow House. The town council should also contact Wessex Water Pre-Regulation 14 to input on odour concerns related to the Ashley Coombe site.

Len suggested that Wessex Water and the Environment Agency be given advance notice of the proposed site allocation at the upcoming Operation Flood Working Group meeting for Warminster in mid- August. Vaughan thought this approach represents good practice even though the Environment Agency will be formally invited to comment on the sites at Regulation 14.

4. Climate statement

The draft Climate Statement prepared by Tom and Harriet and edited by Place Studio was approved by the Steering Group.

5. Community projects

Members were invited to suggest additional community project ideas. Suggestions included:

- Pump track in the town park.
- Encourage developers to fund rent a bike schemes, car clubs and bike sheds and other pro cycling/walking measures.
- Encourage school walking buses.
- Improvement to informal paths at Grovelands giving year-round accessibility
- Establishing a community woodland and identify areas for planting trees could be linked to Government's proposal for Great West Forest.

It was agreed that efforts should be made to encourage Wiltshire Council to contribute to community projects in Warminster via their Community Infrastructure Levy funding.

Tom reported that a recent study by Wiltshire Council has recommended improvements to the town's cycling network. The report to be distributed to the group. In addition, the town council will be setting up a cycling and walking working group.

6. Any other business

- Harriet expressed disappointed with the response received from Sophie Davies regarding sewage mitigation queries.
- Members signed off the Warminster Site Assessment Report produced by LUC.
- It was agreed that prior to the submission of the draft plan Regulation 14 Consultation, all members of Warminster Town Council should be invited to a dedicated steering group meeting to express any concerns. All supporting documents produced to date should be shared in advance of the meeting.
- Tom confirmed that a briefing on the Warminster Neighbourhood Plan and Site Allocation had recently been delivered to councillors.

7. Date of next meeting

Next meeting to be held mid-August. Date to be confirmed.