Compton Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group



Minutes of the Steering Group Meeting to Review Draft NDP

Held on Thursday 9th April 2020 at 7:00pm via video conferencing due to Coronavirus Lockdown. Those present : Dave Aldis (Chair), Alan Garmonsway (Deputy Chair), Sue Garmonsway (Sec), David Norbury, Chris Smith, Sally Duckett, Rupert Reid, Aaron Smith, Hollie Snyder

1) Apologies for Absence Peter McGeehin

2) Update from Aaron Smith

On Tuesday the government added paragraph 107 to the Planning Practice Guidance which sets out changes that have been introduced to neighbourhood planning in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The key message is that neighbourhood planning can continue, including consultations subject to compliance with current guidance on isolating.

Importantly, it confirms once the neighbourhood plan has passed examination it can be afforded significant weight, even before a referendum. Referendums cannot now be completed until 6th May 2021.

All this confirms is that we continue work with the neighbourhood plan, however clearly means of consultation will be restricted.

Action: SG to seek the advice from West Berkshire Council on conducting consultation for a Regulation 14 and Regulation 16 in view of the restrictions on social distancing / isolation.

Aaron updated the group on where we were with the NDP, Draft 3 had been circulated to the group and there were some gaps in information that needed to be addressed:

Community Facilities, Health & Wellbeing Policies:

C12 - to be amended in line with AGs comments on medium and long term solutions

C13 - permissive of alteration, improvement and extension to existing facilities for community use, Business hub could be included

Climate Change:

C3 - Energy efficiency design to be included but must meet other design requirement

C4 - District Heating scheme to be considered as part of project on Pirbright site

Housing & Design:

C8 - High Standard of design – new statement to be included in the policy

Action: NDP steering group to review current Design Statement to decide which points are still relevant so that a decision can be made on how to incorporate it into the plan. The Parish Council added extra points on the SPD for Pirbright – DA asked that these be incorporated. **DN** will review and then circulate to the Steering Group.

Business & Employment:

C10 – Going to be used to protect areas that are important to employment and that these areas should be maintained as areas for employment.

Action: CS to identify land areas on a map that should be protected for continued employment use and then circulate to the Steering Group.

Open Space, Rights of Way & Environment:

C16 – Local Greenspace – what other areas of land should be designated greenspace C17 – Biodiversity?

Action: Parcels of land to be designated green space to be identified on a map, Information on Biodiversity.

SG to contact Tim to confirm if he has information on this area.

Roads, Transport & Carparking:

C20 – Car Park – where would this be located? Public or for employment? Is this something the Parish Council would take up as a project?

DA advised that a survey had been completed by Sovereign Housing not long ago and he would find it and get it circulated to the rest of the Steering Group

C21 – Residential Parking Standards – AS was looking into this.

Aaron would like to get a draft to West Berks Council in the next 2 to 3 weeks.

DN advised Aaron of some text amendments.

Meeting closed 8pm