

Note of Sleaford Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group 23rd meeting – by Zoom

Friday 3rd December 2021, 2pm – 4pm

Working Group Members

Cllr Robert Oates, Chairman
Cllr Paul Edwards-Shea
Mr Nick Law
Mr Keith Maltby
Mr David Marriage
Cllr David Suiter
Ms Harriet Wells

Apologies

Ms Kathy Blythe
Ms Clare Edwards
Cllr Ken Fernandes

Consultants

Mr Steve Kemp, Open Plan

Sleaford Town Council

Ms Nicola Marshall, Deputy Town Clerk

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

2 Note of last meeting on Friday 29th October 2021

The meeting approved the Notes. **Action:** NM to post Minutes on the Sleaford Town Council website.

3 Actions arising from the Last Meeting

All actions had been completed, were in progress or covered on the agenda of the meeting.

4. Stage 1: Engagement Strategy

4.1 Vision and Objectives – amends from People’s Panel

The Chairman reported that the feedback from the People’s Panel on the Vision was positive and in general agreement of the objectives. The four main principles were also accepted with the suggestion that ‘Enterprising’ be replaced with ‘Thriving’.

Additional amendments were discussed and agreed. **Action:** Steve Kemp to amend the ‘green wheel’ and send to Chairman. **Action:** document to be updated with amendments and recirculated and a press release sent to local media and promoted on the STC website and social media and displayed in the Library (Chairman and NM)

4.2 Vision and Objectives – further consultation actions

These had been covered in the discussion under 4.1 and amendments agreed to the document.

5. Stage 2: Developing the evidence base

5.1 Neighbourhood Profile Draft Report

The Chairman shared the draft Neighbourhood Profile. He highlighted issues raised at the first public walkabout, which mirrored the feedback received to the draft vision and objectives. Traffic and car parking had been highlighted as key concerns in feedback

from the public. Additionally, there were comments about the street scene, improving the town centre retail offer and experience. Comparatively, there had been few comments about facilities, for example, provision of public toilets. However, the need for public toilets had been made clear through other communication channels. Signage in and around the town and the town's historic buildings and environment were of importance and there had been requests for more green space in and around the town. Improvements proposed included promoting the Market Place for public events and café culture rather than vehicle parking space.

The pressures from parking, school traffic and transport were noted. It was noted that school students brought life into the town and any future relocation of the schools to an out of town location would have an impact on the vitality of the town centre.

A meeting with NKDC and traffic planning consultants on revisiting the Sleaford Transport Plan had taken place. Suggestions had included closing Southgate to traffic on some days of the week.

It was agreed that the NP should refer to the large public concern around traffic congestion, and should refer to the forthcoming revision of the Sleaford Transport Plan by LCC and NKDC for potential solutions.

SK offered to facilitate a separate session with the Group on transport issues. **Action:** SK and Chairman to organise.

5.2 Update on involving Town Councillors in Character Areas

The Chairman reported that a meeting would be organised with Town Councillors in the new year to update them and explain how they can get involved. **Action:** Meeting to be organised by Chairman.

6. Draft Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan

6.1 Progress with Draft Plan

SK had offered to draft some policies to give a good foundation for further work on the Plan. **Action:** SK confirmed he would produce these in readiness for the January meeting. As this would be additional to the contracted work the Chairman advised that there may be an additional consultancy cost for this work. It was agreed to take up this offer and commit funds from the budget if necessary.

6.2 Letter and Report from Civic Trust

DM introduced the letter and report from the Civic Trust outlining their aspirations of making the Market Place and Churchyard a safer and more attractive space for people to use. The Chairman stated that the letter was valuable supporting evidence for the Neighbourhood Plan and the review of NKDC's town Masterplan. It was noted that NKDC are the owners of the Market Place and therefore the main decision-maker in its future use.

7 Green Infrastructure

7.1 Sleaford Urban Green Grid Opportunity Plan

The Chairman introduced this document which was part of the Local Plan. The document and maps were considered. Some apparent discrepancies over town boundaries, allocation of private / public space, present day population and other points were noted and discussed. **Action:** Working Group members to check the maps within the document and feedback any errors to the Chairman. **Action:** Chairman and SK to work up a report based on this document, for the Neighbourhood Plan's green space audit. The report would highlight that public feedback to the Neighbourhood Plan stressed the importance of more public open space.

8 Publicity

8.1 Website news and social media

NM reported that there was nothing of note to report back on this item.

9. Finance

9.1 Budget update

NM reported that the budget remained on profile; there had been no further commitments since the last meeting.

10. AOB

10.1 There was no further business and the meeting finished at 3.40 pm.

11. Dates of next meetings

11.1 Proposed dates, sent via Outlook email, were Friday 28th January, Friday 25th February and Friday 1 April 2022. All at 2pm to 4pm by Zoom.