

Notes of Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Working Group 30th meeting held at the Town Hall

Wednesday 1st March 2023, 1.00 pm – 2.45 pm

Present

Cllr Robert Oates, Chairman
Mr Keith Maltby, Deputy Chairman
Cllr Ken Fernandes
Cllr David Suiter
Cllr Paul Edwards-Shea
Mr David Marriage
Apologies - Mr Chris Pilkington, Town Clerk

Support

Debbie Scott

Consultants

Steve Kemp, OpenPlan

1. **Welcome and apologies.**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting. He added that this would be the 30th meeting of the group, so something of an anniversary. He had never dreamt it would take so many meetings but felt that substantial progress was now being made.

2. **Notes of Working Group Meeting held on 17th February 2023**

The notes were accepted.

Action: DS to supply copy to CP for the website

3. **Draft Neighbourhood Plan**

3.1 **Contract with Open Plan**

RO reiterated that, thanks to NM, the grant funding had been secured for Open Plan's work now in progress. It was noted that the deadline for spending the grant was 31st March, after which any unspent amount would need to be re-applied for from Locality. Current work for Open Plan was to complete the draft policies, ensure that the policies and the evidence base were aligned and complete the maps and designs. As before, 50% for this stage of the work had been paid upfront to OpenPlan but the work included support at later stages, and it would be necessary to re-apply to Locality for the unspent portion.

Actions:

SK to submit invoice by 31st March 2023

DS to alert CP to need to re-apply for unspent funds.

4.2 **The draft NP Document**

In answer to questions, SK confirmed he would be taking into account NKDC's comments discussed at the February meeting.

He asked for advice on which of the wording in other plans/strategies the group wanted the draft plan to support, as well as the massive amount of evidence from the community engagement and the work by AECOM.

He clarified that the Design Codes and Masterplan being prepared by AECOM had no legislative obligation for consultation, but it would be good practice to do a consultation exercise, possible separately from the main consultations if necessary.

It was noted that various documents were subject to regular reviews (Sleaford Transport Strategy, Sleaford Masterplan, etc.) so it was important to get the latest version. There was also an LCC Walking and Cycling Strategy to be included. (RO had emailed a set of the documents to AECOM, with SK copied in, the previous day)

Other points to reference would be:

Heart of Sleaford /Money's Yard/ Corn Exchange proposals

The Maltings and adjacent developments

Tesco/Advanta site – to support the site being brought into use with community benefits (still owned by Tesco but very unlikely to be developed as a superstore)

South Southgate (to support the development of the area west of Southgate between the Handley Monument and the railway line).

Employment areas – to refer to areas identified in the CLLP.

Schools – noted proposal to move the two grammar schools (CGS and KSHS) to a site to the west of the A15, currently not financially possible but still a long-term ambition. This would free up the existing town centre sites, but concerns were expressed about the possible loss of Northgate Sports Hall (an NKDC Asset managed by CGS) and the nearby 3G Pitch. The potential use of part of the KSHS site as an access route from Southgate to Castle Causeway was noted. Both were deemed to be worth mentioning in the draft NP, even if they may not happen within five years.

Design themes

Revealing the River Sleas (the distinction between the 'River Sleas' and the 'Sleaford Navigation' was noted, as was the role of the Nine Foot.)

Creating Public Spaces

Diversifying Town Centre Uses including more entertainment, diverse shopping and other facilities.

Supporting sensitive development

Connecting people and places.

It was important not to close anything off, given the rate of change in technology and community needs.

Transport – the desired strategy outcomes aligned with items 1-11 of the Sleaford Transport Strategy, but the group asked that the reference to the 'South West Regeneration route' be deleted as this was not supported by the Town Council.

It was essential to include the reference to the principle of a Southern bypass, connecting the A15 south of Sleaford to the A17 east of Sleaford but not specifying a proposed line.

Joined up cycle routes on the main radial roads into town was also an aim.

The transport/travel options for the Sleaford West site should be sustainable and practical and not create more congestion, e.g., on The Drove.

RO reminded the meeting that NKDC's comments had suggested that the early draft had included too much duplication, but it was felt that references needed to be made to other documents where the SNP could add 'clout' or where an aspect, e.g., housing need, was outside the scope of the SNP.

It was noted that RO would be unavailable during March but KM as Deputy, could convene extra meetings etc., if required. It was suggested that SK share his work for comments as it is produced over the next four weeks.

Action: DS/SK to set up an online facility for sharing and commenting

4 Zoom Meeting with AECOM

RO explained that this had taken place the previous day to introduce the consultants John Michael Chidwick and Wei Deng. They would be producing the Design Codes and a Masterplan for Sleaford West Quadrant to include designs for streets, housing, community facilities, etc., with provision for sustainable transport, green space for recreation, minimum 10% biodiversity net gain and

designs to make the best of existing views. They would be forwarding work plans prior to the meeting on 6th April for discussion.

5 Finance

As discussed above, SK would be invoicing at the end of March.

6 Website

DS explained the recent updates and her request for the Town Council website's Projects page be split into two, separating the Castle Working Group section from the SNP section, so that a direct link to the notes of the SNP meetings could be made.

7 Dates of next meetings

Thursday 6th April 2023 – this had been booked but it was agreed to change it to

Wednesday 5th April, again at the Town Hall – 10 am (DS to book room) – to finalise a draft version of the SNP to submit for information to STC meeting on 19th April 2023.

8 Other business

DM shared copies of the new Heritage Trail.

He also drew the Scopwick and Kirkby Green Neighbourhood Plan to the meeting's notice, it being on NKDC's agenda for adoption, following its successful referendum in January.

Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – March 2023