

Note of Sleaford Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group 24th meeting – by Zoom

Friday 28th January, 2pm – 4pm

Working Group Members

Cllr Robert Oates, Chairman
Ms Clare Edwards
Cllr Ken Fernandes
Mr Nick Law (until 3.00 pm)
Mr Keith Maltby
Mr David Marriage
Cllr David Suiter

Apologies

Ms Kathy Blythe
Cllr Paul Edwards-Shea
Ms Harriet Wells

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.

Kathy Blythe had informed the Chair that, due to work pressures, she would be stepping down from the Working Group. Working Group members were asked to let the Chair know of potential replacements to represent the environment / green agenda.

2 Note of last meeting on Friday 3rd December 2021

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

3 Actions arising from the Last Meeting

All actions were complete, were in progress or covered on the agenda of the meeting.

4. Stage 1: Engagement Strategy

4.1 Vision and Objectives consultation leaflet

All actions from the last meeting on this item had been delayed due to restrictions on account of the Omicron variant of Covid-19. The document had been discussed at an update meeting with NKDC planning officers and some minor changes had been made. Also, NKDC officers had suggested that the objectives be made more specific to Sleaford. It was agreed to include a table highlighting specific actions relating to the objectives and to shorten the questionnaire to maximise feedback from the public.

Actions:

- Document to be updated and sent out with a press release, plus distributed on the website, Facebook page, in the library and on social media etc.
- Workshop to be planned for early March (NM, RO and SK)
- The leaflet to be circulated to Town Councillors for their meeting in February

5. Stage 2: Developing the evidence base

The Chair reported that the Neighbourhood Profile draft report was being worked up. And arrangements would be made to involve Town Councillors in the development of the Character Area descriptions.

6. Draft Sleaford Neighbourhood Plan

The Chair would be circulating the draft for comment once the Objectives were agreed in about a month's time. **Action:** SK would contribute draft model policies.

7 Green Infrastructure

Three areas on the Sleaford Green Grid map were identified as incorrectly labelled. It was noted that the NP can make suggestions for the area within the town boundary only, whereas the Local Plan maps cover a wider area. Allotment holders would be consulted on the green space audit and asked whether allotments should be protected from development as 'assets of community value'.

Action: points made in the discussion would be raised with NKDC (RO, NM)

8 Plans by others

8.1 The draft LCC 'Sleaford Local Cycling and Walking Plan' was discussed. The plan focused on the links with surrounding villages rather than the town centre, therefore the SNDP would need to focus on the town centre challenges and identify where new cycle routes were needed as well as more cycle shelters / lockers.

9 Publicity

9.1 Website news and social media

NM reported that numbers on the website were lower than previous month due to no new news items and the seasonal holiday period. The Vision and Objectives document would generate interest once it was shared on the website and social media sites.

Action: A draft Press Release would be sent to the Group and local press and media (RO and NM)

10. Finance

10.1 Budget update

Action: NM, SK and RO to meet to profile the budget and Locality grant spend for end of year reporting.

11. AOB

11.1 It was noted that the Local Plan maps were out of date and gave the impression that the town was smaller than it is, due to recent development in the Southern Urban Extension. Areas earmarked for development would be shown in the SNDP, as well as the areas where new development had taken place.

11. Dates of next meetings

12.1 Proposed dates, sent via Outlook email, were: 25th February, 8th April, 6th May. All Fridays at 2pm to 4pm by Zoom.