

Minutes of the Meeting of the Hurst Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Held at the Castle Inn on Wednesday 23rd August 2023

Present John Edwards (JE) Chairman, Lou Robinson (LR), Brian Thomas (BT),
Wayne Smith (WS)

Apologies Gemma Moore (GM), Duncan Kendall (DK) and Penny Curry (PC)

270 There were no prejudicial interests to declare.

271 The minutes of the 21st June, 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

272 **Matters Arising**

258: Late proposed allocation in LPU 5HU053 ([Local Plan Update \(arcgis.com\)](#)) at Bill Hill (97.5 ha/241 acres) for *Other (Renewable Energy)*. No further details on plans for the site although the reinstatement work has been completed.

265: The Chairman had responded to DP/JM setting out our position on our TOR and our submission to WBC RGS.

269: Drainage Survey. WS had raised the issue once again with WBC and offered to arrange a meeting with landowners.

272 **Correspondence**

DP/JM had come back again with queries about the Code of Conduct applicable to parish councils.

Action: WS to respond on behalf of the HPC

273 **Update on LPU**

WBC has published a revised Local Development Scheme for the Local Plan. It sets out an ambitious timescale with publication of the plan in November 2023 leading to adoption by December 2025. Once the WBC Plan is published, we should be able to resume work on our Neighbourhood Plan. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill is still working its way through the House of Lords.

274 **Infrastructure Improvement Plan**

WBC has released a series of maps covering the whole Borough that identifies alterations to roads and footpaths. Maps 15 and 17 cover our parish and involve an extensive set of changes including:

- Reduction in speed limits
- New cycleways at the expense of grass verges
- Built out kerbs
- Widening of footpaths
- New road crossings

- Street lighting

Some of these conflict with existing WBC policies particularly with reference to Climate Change and the sources of funding to implement this extensive project are unclear. Some of these changes have been implemented in and around Arborfield and have not met with universal approval.

275 Update from Group

Outstanding Planning applications

Responses are long overdue for the development application at Willowmead site and the Sawpit Triangle conditions.

A new application for pre-emptive development of the LPU site at Amen Corner (232026) has been submitted. This is for up to 45 residential dwellings but should this be approved ahead of the 2026 Local Plan it would be considered a windfall and as such would not contribute to Hurst's housing allocation.

276 Tasks Going Forward

Maintenance of evidence base reports

Date of the next meeting 12th October, 2023

Meeting closed at 21:00

Signed:

Date