

Minutes of the Meeting of the Hurst Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Held at The Castle Inn, on Thursday 27th July, 2022

PRESENT: John Edwards (Chairman), Lou Robinson (LR), Brian Thomas (BT) Gemma Moore (GM), Duncan Kendall (DK), Penny Curry (Secretary)

APOLOGIES: Wayne Smith (WS)

222 There were no prejudicial interests to declare.

223 The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th June, 2022 were approved and signed.

224 **Actions arising not covered by Agenda**

- None

225 **Correspondence**

We received a communication from David Weatherill of ET Planning, Crowthorne who are agents for Mrs P Clayden in respect the land known as 'Willowmead Field', School Road, Hurst.

226 **19.47 Presentation by ET Planning** - David Weatherill (DW) and Robyn Milliner (RM) Principal Planner.

DW asked a number of questions regarding the Hurst Neighbourhood Plan status and it was confirmed that the HNPWG were in discussion with WBC regarding a number of matters including housing allocation sites. It was noted that the document provided by ET Planning included the proposed LPU sites in Broadwater Lane for 15 dwellings but had omitted the proposed sustainable site at Amen Corner for 45 dwellings. We reminded ET Planning that the Neighbourhood Plan is mainly driven by the outcome of the numerous community consultations held throughout the parish and also the household questionnaire. It was confirmed that this has identified a number of sites to be protected either by nomination as a Local Green Space or as a Community Asset of which Willowmead was identified as one of those sites. Presentation concluded at 20.19.

HNPWG held a brief discussion after the presentation. The Working Group considered this more to be a fishing trip to establish our intentions towards Willowmead Field and the status of the Neighbourhood Plan rather than a proposal for development of the site although that is their clear intent. The presentation was a 5 page document with very little information with regard to ET Planning's intentions.

227 **Local Plan**

LR had written to James McCabe (JM) and Ian Bellinger (IB) of WBC with a number of questions regarding a) Up to date Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) data; b) With the ONS 2021 Census information slowly distributing statistics, what the up to date information is with regard to housing need in respect of affordable housing allocation and c) With political change at WBC, what the current status is of the Local Plan?

JM responded:

- a) The ALC information is available on the Natural England ALC data and forwarded a link, but confirmed this is not as detailed as the DEFRA Magic Map information which the NP already has access to.
- b) WBC has commissioned an update to the published Local Housing Needs Assessment and this should be finalised over the summer.
- c) It was confirmed that they are working with the new administration, but this will slow the process but unable to state by how much.

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Update from Group

- a) Analysis and presentation of Road Traffic Accidents (RTA): BT had analysed the data sent by WBC which included 160 accidents where injury was report (2000 -2019). It was noted the hot spots were Pound Lane/Lines Road Junction; Church Hill/Lines Road/Lodge Road. BT has plotted all events on a parish map and it became evident we had no data for our road network South of the M4. This information will be added to the evidence base.

ACTION: JE to chase WBC for missing data

- b) New traffic Surveys:
Three new surveys have been outsourced for September 2022 for sites at Forest Road, Lodge Road and Broadwater Lane.

- c) Outsourcing of Land Character Assessments:
TerraFirma had quoted in the region of £7500 plus expenses, plus VAT and requested a significant amount of information to be provided by the HNPWG. Having reviewed this, it was decided that we could do this ourselves.

ACTION: JE to notify TerraFirma accordingly

- d) Evidence Base update on local businesses
PC has made good progress on identifying new businesses and defunct businesses in the Parish for the evidence base. Ongoing.

ACTION: LR to assist PC with data update

- e) Design Guide: JE is progressing with this. GM has offered to assist with this.

ACTION: JE to send draft details to GM

- f) Views: Photographs for views for evidence base. DK has made good progress and has covered a large proportion of the Parish and will continue to cover the remainder over a period time.

- g) Maps: LR and JE are preparing the Biodiversity Strategic Significance Map which will be forwarded to Cosmographics for consideration.

ACTION: JE and LR to prepare map and send

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AOB

LR has made contact with Liz Shearer (LS) of Berkshire Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) to establish the status of the Local Nature Recovery Plan. It was confirmed that the Berkshire Nature Recovery Plan is running late and is chaired by Matthew Stanton (BBOWT). On the basis of this information HNPWG will contact him and ask to be involved in the consultations.

ACTION: LR to write to Matthew Stanton

JE has reviewed some of the 2021 Census Data and it is evident that Wokingham has experienced a 15% growth in 10 years which is the 3rd highest increase in population in the country.

The meeting closed at 21.20

Next meeting Thursday 18th August, 2022 at the Castle Inn

Signed:

Dated: