

Watton NP steering group meeting Notes – Tuesday 19th November 2019 11am
Wayland Hall Council Offices

Present – Neil Featherstone (NF), Jane Fountain (JF), Pat Warwick (PW), Sue Dent (SD) John Chocqueel-Mangan (JCM), Keith Gilbert (KG), Liz Whitcher (LW)

1. Apologies

Apologies received from David Dent and Paul Adcock

2. To accept NP meeting notes from 4th October 2019

The notes from the NP meeting held on October 4th were accepted as presented.

3. AECOM – Consideration of AECOM options and agreement as to Option choice for Watton NP

After correspondence received from Ben Castell the decision was made to go with Option 1 of the AECOM Economic focused town centre plan which would be the best option, this includes *“Building on the content of the Commercial and Retail group’s proposals/objectives outlined by David Dent and Paul Adcock and the issues raised by the High Street Action Group to set out how the Neighbourhood Plan could advance them. As we would need to focus on land use planning, this could focus on particular sites as well as general. Could also include shopfront guidance.”*

Background information in regards to the options given by AECOM will be an agenda item on the next Town Council meeting at the end of November.

Moving forward the two main objectives were to

- i. Develop a brief for **Middle Street Pedestrianisation Feasibility Study**:-
 - There is a need for consultation with businesses and the Town Council within the shambles this would be incorporated within the feasibility study from NCC.
 - To include the long term aim of demolishing the shambles within the project brief. – It was noted that speaking to Breckland District Council re: - inhabitation of the area.
 - Looking at options for permanent pedestrianisation with access for houses and businesses.
 - Want to make Middle Street a focal point of the Town Centre to become the Market place and where town events could be held.
 - Incorporate electrical points within bollards or surface mounted to allow stall holders to hook up to electric and lighting.
- Action:**
 - SD to draft a project brief, circulate to steering group members and bring back to the next NP meeting.
 - NF to forward schematic outline arising from discussion to SD
- ii. Develop a scope for the AECOM works now technical support has been given, which NF will draft the brief and circulate to members of the steering

group. Brief for the AECOM work to be an agenda item on the Town Council meeting in December.

4. Consideration of any other support or grant application from Locality

Some discussion took place in regards to claiming monies back from Breckland District Council for the support grant from AECOM and the Neighbourhood Plan process. It was noted that there is a £9,000 limit and that Breckland will give back 50%.

Action:

NF to speak to Ben Castell from AECOM and Susan Heinrich from Breckland District Council.

5. Sub group updates

- **Drainage Group**

Hard copy filed – App 1

Action:

- NF to forward outline of Drainage Group activity and Reports to EA as part of evidence gathering for HLF Brecks Fen Edge project
- **Youth engagement (it was suggested that this item be changed on the next NP agenda to Retail/Commercial engagement)**
 - It was noted that the Town Council is working with the Benjamin Foundation in regards to the Community Hub.
 - The Town Council has agreed to work towards a temporary Skate Park which will be held during the school summer holidays next year.
- **Other (Item to be changed on the next NP agenda to other engagement)**

No other matters raised.

6. AOB

LW updated the meeting on the feedback to the Patient Participation Group (PPG) at the Medical Practice of the relevant data from the NP questionnaire. This was discussed at the PPG meeting on 4 November.

7. Next meeting date

Meeting to be determined once NF has spoken to Ben Castell – Next meeting could be a walk around the Town Centre to move forward with the Technical support from AECOM.