

Watton Neighbourhood Plan steering group meeting Notes  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2pm at Wayland Hall Council Offices

Present – Jane Fountain (JF), Pat Warwick (PW), David Dent (DD), John Chocqueel-Mangan (JCM), Neil Featherstone (NF) Liz Whitcher (LW)

Notes by - Michelle Thompson (MT)

**1. Apologies**

Keith Gilbert and Paul Adcock

**2. To accept NP meeting notes from 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

The notes from the NP meeting held on December 9th were accepted as presented.

- It was noted that the draft NP is slightly behind schedule but will be prepared for the end of February 2020.

**3. AECOM – Technical Support Update**

- First draft of the Watton Town Centre Design Code plan received from AECOM on 10th February. Plan been circulated to steering group members and viewed electronically at the steering group meeting. Comments to Jane Fountain.
- JF to report to the Town Council meeting within her Vice Chairman's report on February 11th that the draft design Code plan has been received.
- MT to circulate Design Code plan to all councillors – with any comments from councillors or NPWG members to be forwarded to JF to be collated and sent to NF by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February.
- The Design Code plan contains a Signage Audit which could be useful for the Heritage Map project.
- Due to the fire in the High Street, it has been discussed to potentially move the market to Middle Street temporarily to accommodate the market traders, a temporary road closure to be looked into.

**4. Draft Neighbourhood plan update**

- There was a brief look at the draft NP so far.
- NF has asked for members of the steering group to focus on a particular policy and project arising from the process which is stated in the draft NP to develop the text and work with NF on the content :-  
Housing and Development – Liz Whitcher  
Natural and built Heritage – Jane Fountain  
Community and Social – Pat Warwick  
Commercial and Retail – David Dent  
Access and Transport – John Chocqueel-Mangan
- NF to continue working on the NP sending sections to relevant NPWG for comments/observations etc, with the intention to have the draft completed by the end of February.
- DD suggested emphasising in the Plan the collective and growing desire and opportunity for organisations/agencies to work together for the good of Watton

## 5. Sub group updates

- **Drainage Group**

Written report presented (Appendix 1)

- LW to send Simple SuDs Report from the National Flood Forum to be listed as useful information on the Town Council website.

- **Retail/Commercial Engagement**

Digital and Creative Media Centre (DCMC) Update

- Written draft building brief circulated to steering group members.

In his introduction David Dent made clear that the Wayland Chamber of Commerce is only facilitating the development of the DCMC on behalf of, and in partnership with, the Wayland Partnership. The DCMC will be owned by the Wayland Partnership and the property managed by a third party on behalf of the Partnership.

Initial planning to define the functional space of the centre is underway with the first draft under consideration by the Trustees of the Wayland Partnership. Hethel Innovation will support business plan preparation, assisting with building design specifications and architectural inputs.

A meeting on 5th March has been arranged between David Dent and Bronwen Tyler and Norfolk County Council Officers and Cllr Claire Bowes to consider integration of the Watton library into the proposed Centre.

Breckland Council are fully aware of the proposals and are supportive of the initiative, as is George Freeman MP.

Hethel Innovation continue to support the initiative, are keen to see a digital and creative media incubator for business established in mid-Norfolk and ultimately are interested in managing the site on behalf of the Wayland Partnership.

This proposal has the support of George Freeman MP, Sam Chapman – Allen (Leader BDC) and Simon Hughes (NCC)

- **Other Engagement**

- Watton Medical Practice Patient Participation Group (PPG) – JF to attend and provide a presentation on the NP.

## 6. AOB

- LW informed the group part of the reason she became part of the PPG, was to see where the Neighbourhood plan could help Watton Medical Practice with current difficulties. After speaking to Breckland it is only land use that the NHS can ask for, so any help required with equipment, staffing etc. Would not be included in any s106 agreement monies..
- As of April 2020 the 5 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) in Norfolk will become one CCG.
- A meeting to explain the role of the Watton Medical Practice Patient Participation Groups role to patients is being held at the Queens Hall on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 7pm – 9pm – it was suggested that the NP and Drainage group has a display stand at the meeting.

## 7. Next meeting date

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm