

Watton Neighbourhood Plan steering group meeting Notes

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 10am

Held virtually on Zoom

Present – Jane Fountain (JF), Pat Warwick (PW), Kathryn Stallard (KS), Keith Gilbert (KG), Liz Whitcher (LW), David Dent (DD)

Notes by – Michelle Thompson (MT)

**1. No Apologies received**

**2. To accept NP meeting notes from 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

The notes from the NP meeting held on February 10<sup>th</sup> 2020 were accepted as presented.

**3. Revised Draft Neighbourhood plan March 2021 update**

- Places4People have drafted the Neighbourhood plan (Appendix 1) along with notes and questions (Appendix 2) to read in conjunction.
- Confusion on how the plan has been left now the consultant is no longer involved.
- The understanding was before the consultant left the plan would be compiled and the statutory document ready to be submitted to Breckland District Council (BDC).
- It was felt that the work that has already been undertaken by the consultant and the group is not lost and that it could be continued and completed without a consultant and with the input from the Steering group members.
- Would need advice from the Places4People planner as to whether BDC would need the whole document or just the Statutory side of the plan.
- The Planner suggested to put the statutory document forward to BDC informally once tweaked but need to address his questions and notes before submitting. In the meantime, use all other evidence including the Design codes and appraisals to create the big plan.
- The draft Statutory document is written in planning form – it was suggested the Town Council's (TC) document could be brief to include residents' concerns and objective feeding into the 3-year finance planning of the TC and would help with future budgeting.
- Thoughts on how to present the plan to the public by having the objective and then how the objective is achieved.
- Statutory document has been drafted – additional documents to be compiled with the explanation of each section. Objectives are indicated in the main document and separate public facing appendix referring to the main statutory document.
- In regard to the achievements and objectives It's not only about what the TC can physically do but to encourage the community and other partners such as BDC and County to contribute.
- A lot of discussion took place on how the plan would be presented to the public – The statutory side is a stand alone document which will be public facing the rest of the plan can be shaped as separate documents.
- Not all the wishes in the questionnaire are stated in the statutory plan – so this would need to be included by linking to relevant sections.
- It was suggested that the wish list and thoughts first then the statutory after encouraging the public to read and easier on the eye.
- The next step is to work through the notes and questions raised by the planner to get a response for the planner when meeting him.

- Members to fully read the draft plan to pick up amendments and typos.
- BDC are reviewing their local plan - flag up flood risk as something that needs to be considered within this. The Local Plan review is due Nov 2022 – if the timeline is missed the relevant reviewed section will then expire and won't be able to be used.
- In the Statutory plan the Chapter about Watton is quite long and could be simplified.
- Identify listed Local heritage assets - get the assets officially recognised. A policy could be added to protect certain buildings.
- LW has offered to collate information and include in the statutory document. KS to feed information and ideas to LW. Once collated MT to forward to planner and then arrange a virtual meeting.
- Look at identify the open green spaces and what the criteria's would be to identify the space.
- JF to look at the "About Watton" chapter part of the Statutory document.

Questions to ask the Planner – areas for clarification.

1. Flooding Policies lead by LW
2. Local plan – if BDC plan is not reviewed within the timeframe.
3. List of Local Heritage Assets – historical buildings to be included and making a policy to protect certain buildings within the town.
4. Community Actions
5. Green spaces

## **6. Sub group updates**

### **Watton & Saham Flood Action Group**

Written report presented (Appendix 3)

- As Watton Town Council has awarded the Flood Action group with a grant to provide support for a new website. LW to send T&C's of Website Designer Todd Pitcher to the Town Council for information.

## **7. Any Other Business**

DD updated members on the Creative Media Centre.

Bronwyn and David met with Breckland District Council (BDC) to present the media centre proposal that was shown to the Town Council. BDC have given the go ahead and were very supportive of the project. Consultation has also been undertaken with neighbouring parishes in Breckland – parish are very supportive of the Centre. Next step in the process is to arrange for the Key people in Norfolk such as NCC, BDC Hethel Innovation and the Wayland Chamber will need to meet to discuss the plan moving forward.

## **8. Next meeting date**

Next meeting will be held with Planner Ian Poole week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> April.  
Date to be organised.