

Watton NP Steering Group Meeting Notes  
26<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 10:00am to be held in the Council Chamber, Wayland Hall

Notes by Michelle Thompson (MT)

Present – Jane Fountain (JF), Pat Warwick (PW), Kathryn Stallard (KS), Liz Whitcher (LW), David Dent (DD), Ian Poole (IP) - Planning Consultant attended virtually

1. Apologies

Keith Gilbert

2. NP meeting notes from June 26<sup>th</sup> 2021 were accepted as presented.

3. To review final draft version of the Neighbourhood Plan

- IP has updated the plan to include the new National Planning Policy Framework and National Model Design Code that the government has recently introduced. The Policies especially the Flooding policy which is stated in the Saham Toney NP has also been taken into consideration, knowing Saham's NP has been through the examination process already.
- The Plan refers to a policies map – which shows all of the parish and designated areas. There are so few designation areas within the plan this is being re-thought to just include Open Spaces and significant buildings on the map.
- It was felt that there is a large number of Community Actions, some that deliver the same outcome and some that may not be achievable – IP to review actions within the next couple of weeks and circulate recommendation to steering group members. Examiners will not be looking at the Community Actions only the policies.
- IP recommends that the relevant community action and policies are included in the same relevant section of the plan, so the layout of the plan flows. E.g. Infrastructure and services will include the Objective, Community action and policy relating to that subject.
- In regard to Community Action 12 – Protection of Green Spaces, The local plan map does identify a number of open spaces in the town, certainly a lot more than what is included within the NP (Currently 6) – there are a lot more designated open space within the town that can be included. The Local plan identifies the spaces as “important open space”, a local open space designation will have more weight in terms of planning decisions. Neighbourhood Plans are empowered to make those designation of open green space. It means that development proposals on those green spaces will be treated the same way as land that cannot be developed on. (Green Belt land)
- As open space is a very important part of the Town – it is important that all designated open space is included in the plan where possible, for this to be achieved and the spaces to be identified IP can carry out a Local Green Space Assessment at a cost of £500 + VAT to save on time the cost has been agreed in principle by the Town Mayor and the Chairman of the Finance Committee but will need to be ratified at the next Finance Committee Meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The plan is almost ready but there will be a slight delay of a month due to review of the community actions and the open space assessment.
- While IP is reviewing the community action and undertaking the open Space Assessment the Steering Group members are to proof read the plan and leaflet, and take any suggestions/amendments etc back to IP by Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Page 47 of the plan, new 180 homes and reference to Anglian Water – remove paragraph.
- Breckland District Council (BDC) Future initiative could derail consultation of the Watton NP. There is a need to be clear that the BDC initiative is separate to the Neighbourhood Plan, but its important that BDC include the NP in its project.

4. To agree on a printing quote to be recommend to the Town Council West -Norfolk Digital Print Services who printed the NP questionnaire to be recommended to full council on Sept 14th subject to getting a sample of their colour and photograph printing quality.

5. Leaflet delivery to households

At a full council meeting the door to door service by Royal Mail option, of £362 plus VAT was queried, it was decided that further investigation is needed on the costing of delivering the plan. The Wayland Chamber of Commerce was approached, they recommended Eastern Leaflets, who delivered the Chamber directory. MT to get an estimate cost from Eastern Leaflets and take the recommendation/quote to full council on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

6. To review Executive Summary (Household leaflet)

Steering Group members to review Leaflet and submit comments back to MT before September 3<sup>rd</sup> for forwarding to IP.

7. The following locations were suggested for the plan to be available to view and comment

- Watton Library - Monday and Thursday 10-1 and 2 – 5, Wednesday 10-1 and 2-6 and Saturday 10-2. Closed on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- Town Council Offices Wayland Hall - by arrangement with a Sign in and out policy.
- St Marys Church - Plan to be available to view when church offices are open.
- Charlotte Harvey Trust Youth and Community Centre – When centre is open.

Watton Library has already been contacted and is happy to participate. MT to contact St Mary's Church and Watton Youth and Community Centre.

8. To receive further reports and items for the next agenda

As part of the Town Council works in progress list a past resolution was to liaise with the Town Retail group regarding re positioning of the Planters in the high street - DD to bring up at next Chamber meeting with Paul Adcock.

Flood Action Group

LW reported on much that is happening with the Flood Action Group. Watton will benefit from funding provided by the Government's Resilience and Innovation Fund announced last December and which Norfolk Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) have successfully bid for. The LLFA have commissioned WSP consultants to work on the flood risk in Watton using not only reported flooding but also knowledge of how water flows across the land (known as hydrology). They have done this and have ranked the different areas for severity of flood risk. They have chosen 5 areas of a total of 10 that they see as most at risk and for which they will seek flood mitigation measures to be paid for by the funding obtained.

The Flood Action Group are going to do a walkabout of these areas with WSP and the LLFA Officer on 8 September.

The Group has also been chosen for a pilot to develop a Neighbourhood Resilience Plan and there is a meeting later today with Richard Herrell a retired Fire Officer and Emergency Planner who has been brought out of retirement to work with the Norfolk Fire Brigade. He also reports to Lord Dannatt's Task Force. Richard has invited representatives of the Group to attend a conference organised by Lord Dannatt in Norwich on 18 October along with those of another group from Long Stratton. Government ministers and others who have the power to affect local communities with their decisions will be present.

#### Digital Media Centre

There is now a project management group that includes representatives and officers of Breckland and Norfolk Councils, Hethel Innovation, New Anglia LEP, Wayland Partnership and David Dent representing Wayland Chamber as Chair. The group varies according to inputs and meets to provide updates every 4-6 weeks.

Jack Fulham has been appointed by Breckland Council to prepare the Business Case DD was interviewed as part of the Breckland Market Town Plan for Watton by Hatch Consulting and the DCMC will be considered as part of future developments within Watton DD has had discussions with NCC about funding options with the central Government Levelling-up Scheme the most likely option for grant funding, probably combined with a loan DD reported positive and supportive discussions with George Freeman MP and discussions with local e-gamers and game developers

In a discussion that followed the option of utilising land on the Charlotte Harvey site as a location for a temporary pre-fab library and existing Wayland House tenants was considered. DD agreed to raise this opportunity with relevant people in NCC.

9. To set a date for the next NP meeting  
Monday September 27<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm

In regard to the timetable moving forward it is hoped that the Final draft of the plan will be circulated to all Town Councillors the week commencing September 28<sup>th</sup> giving time for reading, then added as an agenda item at the Full Council on October 12<sup>th</sup> for sign off.