

## WsM NPWG meeting 21 September 2022

### Minutes

**1 Present:** Sue Isherwood (SI), Ros Wyke (RW), Chris Langdon (CL - Chair), Adamos Euripidou (AE), Liz Hughes (LH), Tony Westcott (TW - minutes)

**2 Apologies:** Mick Fletcher (MF)

### 3 Matters Arising:

- a) **Frequency of NPWG meetings** – initially monthly in person to establish objectives, program and working method; review quarterly, with some virtual meetings.
- b) **SI to identify list of documents from previous WsM NP Working Group** – previous Parish Clerk has no records; SI to ask others including Tony Thompson, Tony Shepherd, John Ball & Tony Shakespeare.
- c) **TW to digitise old WsM NP** – done & circulated to WG members
- d) **RW to arrange meeting with Andre Cessini asap** – meeting on 7 September attended by SI, RW, CL & MF was very helpful; Cessini advised need to be clear about objectives of a WsM NP (subject to consultation), changes to the NP process are coming which may make it simpler. SI noted that the Parish Council had sourced a possible grant under the Smart Communities scheme.

### 4 Review and agree the objectives that the Neighbourhood plan should focus on?

Examples of Wells, Stanton Drew & Rode NPs had been circulated and Stanton Drew's was considered the most appropriate and relevant.

TW suggested that 93 page document in 4 main parts was a good example to follow with Part 1 History & Heritage describing the character and values / matters of importance to the community, leading into the Vision and objectives in Part 2.

RW listed some common issues, including housing development, affordability, environment, landscape, facilities, transport, work opportunities and generational differences, especially opportunities for young people, contrasting differences between WsM and Draycott highlighted in a study by the Somerset Observatoire. (?)

Is the aim to provide guidance to developers or propose what would be in the best interests of the village community?

SI & AE further developed the importance of social issues and differences the village; the danger of it being less inclusive and accessible to the young and Roughmoor Lane community? Ensuring social cohesion across the full spectrum of housing in the village from very expensive to social. How can we leverage the wisdom / experience of older people in village to help the young (careers, skills, business)?

### 5 Agree a phased timetable for the NP process and communication

The importance of transparency and consultation were stressed and options discussed, including whether this should be through open meetings / "surgeries" in the Village hall, circulars, the Village website, individual house visits.

Agreed that the process should be:

**Inform** people (Digital, leaflet, meetings); **Consult** – gather views / comments; **Assess** – interpret results from different sources; **Check / Feedback** “this is what we heard”.

Initial task is to agree clear, defined objectives over the next 6 months as the first stage of a 2 year timescale for completing the NP. First stage of “Inform” needs to be completed within 2 months.

It was accepted that NP policies would not be in place to effectively constrain Roughmoor Lane proposals, but the surveys and emerging evidence would support discussions on what might be acceptable proposals.

### **6 Agree proposals to consult on first draft objectives (and what they mean)**

It was agreed that to prepare for the start of the public Inform & Consult process the following documents would be prepared for consideration at the next meeting:

- a) What are the key features of WsM and values represented in the WsM community which reflect the essential character of the Village – TW & MF to lead
- b) What is the vision for future development in WsM as reflected in surveys to date which will frame the objectives of the NP – SI & LH
- c) WG communication, data storage and archiving systems - CL

### **7 AOB**

**None**

### **8 Date of next meeting**

Thursday 27 October 7 -8.30pm at MF’s, Old Ditch Farm

End