

Westbury sub Mendip Neighbourhood Plan Working Group
Minutes 10 August 2023 7.30 pm
Held at Waterslade, Little Field lane

Present - Mick Fletcher [MF] (chair), Chris Langdon [CL], Tony Westcott [TW], Dave Maguire [DM] Adamos Euripidou [AE] Jenny Payne from UWE (JP)

1. **Apologies** Ros Wyke [RW], Sue Isherwood [SI]
2. **Minutes.** The minutes of meetings held on 13th July were noted and it was agreed they should be published.
3. **Matters** arising not on the agenda.
No response received from playing field committee re long term plans. MF agreed to chase up. **Action MF**
4. **Presentation on “alternative proposals” report by Jenny Payne**
Jenny went through her draft report which reviewed alternative development options for green and brown field sites which was well received by the NPWG members present.

The discussion noted the significant increase in green space is possible where

- house numbers reduced,
- attenuation basin was included in the Greenfield site
- bat corridor is 12m wide.
- a footpath through the site giving access to the park from the village core.

Original reason for the report was to consider and hopefully show that there are alternatives to the schemes proposed so far by Litchfields. Parts of the report can be used to do this as appropriate to stimulate discussion and promote alternatives Agreement that the report may need review once we gather other evidence (transport, settlement character, phosphates) and so should remain draft at this stage. A vote of thanks was given to JP for the excellent report

5 Brownfield Site

- a. Utilising some of JP’s work, CL and TW had held discussions and drawn up 3 possible options for use of the brownfield site for village facilities should it become available. These along with JP’s report could form the basis of informal discussions with the planners to test the water about possible long term uses of the brownfield site. Action agreed – set up meeting with planners to test village facility uses on brownfield site. **CL to arrange.**
- b. It was agreed that the proposed meeting with Church Commissioners should explore the long-term use of the brownfield site and that the location of the 0.1hectares of community land on the greenfield site would need to wait until village views gathered through survey.

6. Village Survey

Draft preamble and questions had been circulated and broadly accepted subject to a few discussed amendments. TW expressed concern that the survey as drafted does not present potential benefit of new facilities. Eg village hall as is not used by many – they would therefore be ambivalent about its replacement or relocation. Whereas if a summary of an alternative community space (with Sports England funding potentially available) was communicated of a hall with different sized meeting spaces, sport activities, changing rooms this would engage more views. Agreement therefore that interested groups will be invited to explain their view on the future of the shop, village hall, allotments and playing field (250 words max). **Action MF to liaise with shop committee, AE to liaise with playing field committee, TW to liaise with village hall committee.**

It was agreed to open survey up to all people 14 and over to ensure the young people of the village had the option to give their views on village facilities in the future. Contact phone numbers may be added to the survey to provide support with understanding the questionnaire if required.

MF agreed to reword the questions. **Action MF with assistance from DM**

It was felt PC only had to give agreement in principle to the issue of the survey. They did not need to agree the actual wording.

CL agreed to pilot the survey with say 10 residents to ensure it was user friendly. **Action CL when final draft of survey agreed.**

7. Update on Settlement Character Appraisal

Liz Beth report on target for completion by end of August. Additional information about the history of the village has been provided.

8. Review of NP Process

Neighbourhood Plan steps to progress handout provided by CL.

It was felt that we could take action now on agreeing the objectives for the NP with the community. However, it may be best to delay this until sometime after the issue of the village survey as discussed in 6 above, to avoid any confusion between the two consultations.

CL reported that funding up to £10k was now available to progress the housing survey. **Action CL to investigate what is required in a housing survey and report back to next meeting**

9. Communications with Village

It was agreed no article would be submitted for the PEW this month.

AOB

None

Next meeting – Wednesday 27th September 7.30pm at Old Ditch.