

Westbury sub Mendip Neighbourhood Plan Working Group
Minutes 24 October 2023 7.00 pm

Present - Chris Langdon [CL] (chair), Mick Fletcher [MF], Dave Maguire [DM] Ros Wyke [RW], Tony Westcott [TW], Adamos Euripidou [AE]

1. **Apologies** Sue Isherwood [SI],
2. **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on 4 October were agreed
3. **Matters** arising –
 - It was noted that CL had drafted a note to Litchfields advising that our contacts with Highways confirmed that ‘safe access to the village core’ meant a safe crossing of the A371 whether by a zebra crossing or other means. Content agreed and SI to issue to CC
 - CL would pursue sources of grant support for preparation of the neighbourhood plan and support for a housing needs survey
 - It was noted that Paul Wiseman and Ralph Ward had joined a group looking at master plan options for the brownfield site which would report back to the NPWG
4. **Settlement Character Report.** The final draft of the SCA had been received from Liz Beth, incorporating corrections and clarifications suggested by the group. It was felt that her description of the character of the village was accurate and well evidenced, and the guidelines for developers followed logically from her analysis. The report would in due course contribute to the overall neighbourhood plan but in the meantime would assist the parish council in framing its response to any development proposals coming forward.
5. It was agreed that the plan should be discussed at the village meetings planned for 8th and 9th November. Copies would be available via the website and printed copies placed where they can be inspected by those without internet – shop, church, hall and Stoneleigh meeting room. TW to explore cost of printing with hard covers.
6. **Village Facilities.** CL gave a summary of responses to the facilities survey which showed a consistent view on priorities across age groups and areas of the village. The headline messages are near universal concern about crossing the A371 and strong emphasis on the need for shared car parking at the village core.
7. In relation to the location and use of community land required to be provided if the greenfield site is developed there was a clear preference for it to be on the NE corner of the allocated site, adjacent to the old farm buildings. If it were possible, villagers showed a preference for all community facilities to be clustered on the brownfield land but planning constraints probably mean that is not feasible.
8. It was agreed that the findings, including a summary of written comments, should be shared with villagers on 8th and 9th for discussion and views expressed at the meeting forwarded to the PC. There was also agreement that any response by PC to Lichfields ref the preferred position of the community space should identify more

specific location preferences within the NE corner. This to be included in advice from NPWG once village meetings discussions are taken account of.

9. **Village Meetings.** It was agreed that CL would report on the survey, MF on the SCA and TW on emerging ideas around the brownfield site. We should seek to keep presentations brief & arrange seating in semicircles to maximise interaction. The outcomes should be recorded for the PC who may be asked to make a decision about the location of community land at their meeting on December 6th . Feedback could also inform ongoing discussions with the CC about the brownfield area.
10. **Date of next meeting.** 15th November, 7.30 pm at Waterslade.