

Westbury sub Mendip Neighbourhood Plan Working Group
Minutes 4th November 2024

Present - Chris Langdon [CL] (chair), Mick Fletcher [MF], Ros Wyke [RW], Tony Westcott (TW), Sue Isherwood (SI), Dave Maguire [DM], Alistair Hood (AL)

1. Apologies Guy Timson. Penny Colwill,

2. Minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on 7th October were agreed.

Action: MF to post copy of minutes on the PC website.

3. Matters Arising. There were no matters arising other than those on the agenda.

4. Update on Highways/Pedestrian Safety. CL updated the group on email exchanges with Highways and Litchfields concerning pedestrian safety and particularly crossing the A371. The information provided following an FOI request suggested that discussions between Highways and agents for the CCE had not considered the full range of potential options to improve safety as set out in our scoping report and this was not acceptable. A meeting had been arranged with Litchfields and separately a meeting had been requested with Highways since the village concerns were broader and more longstanding than just issues around the RML application.

The group confirmed

- That we should continue to emphasise to Litchfields that the interpretation of WM1 given to us by planners was that it meant the ability to cross the road safely
- That we should press Highways to consider all options and combinations of options for improving safety across and along the A371
- That having identified the most feasible options we needed to consult the community about their preferences recognising there were trade-offs and a range of views
- That we should seek to increase pressure on Highways by engaging with other communities with similar concerns including via LCNs and seek to involve the media

5. NP Aims and Objectives. The group gave final consideration to a set of aims and objectives to be forwarded to Stuart Todd for guidance on how these might be translated into policy. These had been derived from surveys carried out between 2022 and 2024, considered in focus groups and a village meeting and in subsequent correspondence between group members. It was agreed that CL would finalise the document which was intended to set out what all available evidence suggested the village wanted and forward it to Stuart. The guidance sought from Stuart would cover

- Which of the aims could be effectively pursued by planning policy and which were aspirational
- How policies might most effectively be worded
- How best to link to or reference other relevant policy documents and to what extent it was necessary
- How far a well written preface or explanatory notes would add to the impact of the document

Action: CL to finalise and forward paper to Stuart Todd

6. Review of Policy Wording. Members shared the results of their investigations into policy wording in made plans. Among the points made were

- There were few opportunities to identify designated green spaces within the parish though views of and access to green space can and should be protected in other ways
- Policies in relation to housing needed to distinguish between applications for individual infill /extensions and proposals to build a group of properties
- There would be advantages in having a design code but it would involve extra cost and delay
- There was agreement that well written preface to the NP doc and to each section would help to under pin / strengthen the policy wording and intent.

Action: TW to draft a preface to the Landscape and Environment sections

7. Review of Timetable. The meeting agreed that it was important to keep to the timetable for preparation of the plan in order to inform the village response to developments including RML. It was accepted that when an outline application was received from CCE the group would have to deal with two work streams in parallel.

8. Communications. It was noted that our contribution to the next issue of the PEW would probably be around the anticipated RML application. It was felt it would be helpful to remind the village of the likely timetable.

9. AOB Action: *It was agreed that SI would contact Adamos before the next meeting.*

9. Next Meeting Agreed to be Monday 9th December at 8pm at Waterslade

Meeting closed.