

MINUTES OF THE WOOLPIT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 24 OCTOBER 2016 AT 7.30 P.M. IN WOOLPIT INSTITUTE.

Present: Trevor Howard (Chairman), Richard Mawhood, Tim Baker, John Guylar, Caroline Blomfield, Andrew Brain, Jennie Denny, Jane Storey, Dr Richard West, David Hughes, Lisa Hicks and 1 member of the public.

There was no public comment.

1 **Apologies for absence** were received from Ben Holden, Alan Round and Jane Foster.

2. **To receive declarations of interest.** There were none.

3. **To approve minutes of the meeting 26 September 2016.**

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. **To receive correspondence/communications and deal with any matters.**

Chris Bowden was invited to the meeting but unable to attend due to other commitments. He will be invited to public event 12 November.

5. **To receive accounts for payment.**

The invoice for printing the flyer advertising the public event 12 November will be put to the Parish Council for approval 7 November.

6. **To receive an update on the application for a WRAP grant and take any necessary action.**

The application for the grant is with WRAP and an answer should be received at the beginning of December.

7. **To receive a report from subgroups and take any necessary action.**

Business – 20 out of 50 responses have been collated. (Other interviews are to take place although some companies have refused to take part). So far the A14 has been a key reason for businesses to be located in Woolpit for easy access to clients and Elmswell Station, all wish to remain in Woolpit, account for £50m turnover and employ 450 staff. Shops are key issue for employees. There is likely to be minimal growth in staff numbers and improvements that businesses would like to see extended parking areas close to the village centre, better bus services, better access at the junction of Old Stowmarket Road.

Only one landowner has come forward wanting to discuss plans for the land.

Community Engagement - LH has been unable to get feedback from the school regarding work done following her assembly. She will contact the school again after half term. It is hoped to include some of the children's work at the public exhibition. Much discussion then ensued whether to conduct our own traffic survey, ways of encouraging parking further out of the village and encourage more walking to the village centre but no conclusion was achieved.

8. **To discuss the scope of a potential community questionnaire and set up a Questionnaire subgroup if appropriate.**

This was carried forward to the next meeting after feedback from the exhibition has been received. RM encouraged all members to look at other villages NPs, particularly Lavenham before the next meeting. CB suggested other issues need to be considered first and TB will circulate the vision statement that he has drafted.

9. To receive comments from the Parish Council on any planning applications received.

WPC has not received any development applications since the last meeting. The old Stowmarket South development land is on the market as are the 5 individual self-build plots. It was questioned whether the self-build plots can be built before development of the main site takes place. This is something WPC will need to clarify. A meeting has been held with Hopkins Homes who have loosely outlined plans for the site of Street Farm. There would be a link road in the middle of the site opposite the junction of Wrights Way through to the interchange on A14. The initial thoughts are that the development will include a site for a new school, some business and retail usage and 440 dwellings. Hopkins Homes have been carrying out traffic surveys.

A group of Cllrs have spoken with agents of Diocesan Land in old Stowmarket Road. It is likely that the agent will apply for outline planning permission for the site and then sell on to a developer. Part of the site is within the conservation area so will need to be dealt with sympathetically.

There has been no further news on the Green Road development.

10. To discuss the village presentation on 12th November in the institute and secure staffing levels for the day.

There will be a short talk at specified times in the upstairs room to advise residents what WNPSG has done so far. Each sub group was asked to produce a slide for the presentation with notes for the speaker. Presentation boards will be available and large maps have been copied for the event. There will be static displays in the downstairs rooms showing what has been covered so far and what will be done in the next few months. It is hoped to have some sort of interactive survey such as an EQI for people to complete on the day and return (LH will devise this), a questionnaire such as how would you protect the most valuable assets of Woolpit, how would you solve the biggest problems and a feedback form.

11. Any other business and actions for next meeting.

Meeting dates for 2017 were set as 30 January, 27 February, 27 March and 24 April.

12. Date and time of the next Steering Group meeting – Monday 28 November 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in Woolpit Institute. Noted.

The meeting closed at 9.52 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....