

Notes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG)

Inception Meeting with Aecom

Monday 6 June 2022 7.30pm (via Zoom)

Present: NPSG Members: Alison Alexander (Chair), Ian Catherall, Mike & Cheryl Loverock, and Ed Vidler

Attending: Nick Chisholm-Batten & Ryan Putt, both of Aecom
Karen Smith (Clerk) and one member of the public

This Inception Meeting was required as part of the process of preparing the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) which has been identified by SHDC and Historic England as being required for the NP to go forwards. The SEA is grant funded.

The purpose of the SEA is to inform and influence the Plan making process – disappointment was expressed that unfortunately in our case the need for an SEA was not raised with the NPSG at an earlier stage. With the whole of Landscope being in a South Hams Special Area of Conservation, this could and should have been anticipated.

Process

- A Scoping Report will be prepared by Aecom – it is hoped to produce this within a week and send to the NPSG early next week to check for any corrections.
- There will then be a 5 week consultation – to obtain comments from Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. Aecom will handle this consultation.
- Aecom will produce the SEA, which will be submitted alongside our Plan under Reg 16.
- Aecom indicated they could produce an HRA if required – this is to be clarified.

Discussion

Alison explained at this point that Duncan Smith has left SHDC and that we are waiting to hear from our District Cllr Jacqi Hodgson who our new contact is.

The meeting then opened up into discussion on how the NPSG came to allocate only two sites. The difficulties arising from the covenants existing on land in and around Staverton were explained and also the fact that the group's original plan, which was to use small exception sites to get to 20 dwellings in Staverton, had been unacceptable to SHDC. Aecom will consider whether there exist reasonable alternatives to those proposed in the Plan to ensure that the approach taken by the NPSG has considered all possibilities. The NPSG strongly indicated that a 20/20 split should be adhered to. Memory X was flagged up by the group for Aecom to look at on the basis that an affordable led scheme would become eligible if the boundary suggested by the NPSG were acceptable.

Actions

- Alison to advise Aecom of Duncan's replacement at SHDC, when known.
- Aecom require copy of Sites Assessment – found in Appendix 1 and the map with sites shown – page 39, but it is still to show the Site Nos, add Site 30 and the assessment for Site 30. Alison to provide finalised map to Aecom (Mike has copy).

- Alison to circulate the Scoping Report once received round the NPSG for comments to be returned to Alison by email
- There will be a zoom meeting post the 5 week consultation period to discuss the reasonable alternatives in Staverton.

Nick and Ryan left at 8.10pm.

The general consensus from group members was that the SEA will hopefully help with our evidence and back up our argument. It was pointed out that Site 28 has an SEA in place already.

There was some confusion amongst the NPSG over the individual steps from Reg 14 onwards – the process needs to be re-checked.

Next Meeting was agreed for Tuesday 14th June via Zoom at 7.30pm.

The member of public attending queried the lack of minutes on the website since 25th April and it was clarified that there has only been one meeting since and its minutes (23rd May) are due on the website shortly.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

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