

Minutes of  
Neighbourhood Plan Group

8 November 2016



**2016/0127 PRESENT**

B. Donohue  
J. Hill  
D. Page  
M. Jackson  
O. Ramsden  
S. Redgard  
R. Sharpe  
H. Canning  
M. Hoyle  
T. Davenport  
R. Bagguley  
M. Uzelac- Cloves  
J. Cundell  
F. Carey  
K. Phillips  
Cllr K Chapman  
Cllr M. Watkins  
Prof J. Handley  
K. Sibthorp  
H. Richards

**2016/0128 APOLOGIES**

F Reyers  
K. McClean  
S. Steele

**2016/0129 MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting 11 October 2016 accepted.

**2016/0130 MEETING NOTES**

The Chairman reported that no-one had come forward to be Vice-Chairman of the Group.

**Town Centre Map**

Kerren Phillips had not yet had time to populate the map of town centre premises. It was agreed that the map should be populated with information on the ownership of both land and buildings in the town centre.

Matthew Jackson reported that a recommendation to purchase mapping software was to be considered by the Town Council at its meeting on 21.11.16. If purchased this product would be of assistance to the Group.

## **Flow Chart**

Hugh Canning had set out a flow chart the NP process showing where the work was up to and what needs to be done to get where it needs to.

## **Vision**

A draft Vision Statement had been circulated to which Kerren and Kate had suggested some small revisions. The Chairman felt the draft Vision Statement was a good starting point which could be further refined in due course.

This meeting was to review the outcomes of the consultation in order to identify emerging policy areas appropriate for the Neighbourhood Plan. Other emerging areas of concern not appropriate to the Neighbourhood Plan could possibly be incorporated into a side document, this being a 'wish list' of issues of concern flagged up through the consultation which could be used to flag up these issues to the appropriate authorities such as Cheshire East Council.

Policy areas would be considered under 9 categories, these being from the 8 headings used in the questionnaire,: Housing; Transport; Natural Environment; Education; Employment; Leisure; Health Services and Town Centre, plus under the additional category of 'Community'.

## **Housing**

Martin Hoyle circulated a review of the survey data (attached) and provided a verbal interpretation.

Frank Carey circulated a comprehensive statistical summary of responses from the questionnaire (attached) and provided a verbal overview.

54% of the responses had been categorised as appropriate for the NP.

The main emerging concern to be addressed is that the local housing market is not working properly because without availability at all levels of the market movement is restricted, this results in a 'blocking' effect to lower levels of the market leading to inflated house prices. The NP needs address to the issue of housing need and the supply of the right type of housing to meet those needs.

In summary, the data highlights the following potential policy areas for the NP:

- To improve the availability of affordable housing;
- To make better use of brownfield sites;
- To moderate/control building density.

With regard to housing design, the Chairman highlighted to the Group that the Cheshire East Design Guide was a very good document for guidance only.

In due course the Group will need to liaise with local social housing providers such as Riverside and Peaks & Plains.

The Chairman also reported that Cheshire East Council will make available information and data it holds, as and when requested.

## **Transport**

Oliver Ramsden provided an overview of the Transport data and circulated a summary (attached).

Many of the issues raised in this category did not relate to land use and were therefore not appropriate to be addressed by the NP. These were broken down into 3 categories, each receiving around 1/3<sup>rd</sup> each:

- Transport links;
- Traffic;
- Public Transport.

Emerging issues which the NP could address fell into 3 categories:

- Parking;

- Traffic;
- Public Transport.

### Parking

Around 6% of these responses related to the cost of parking and 7% related to its availability.

Emerging policy areas to be addressed in respect of parking are:

- The number of parking spaces available appropriate to the range of users, eg commuters, town centre workers, shoppers and residents.
- The location of the parking provision and its type, eg multi-storey.

The cost of parking was a major concern.

A 'Park & Ride' scheme idea had been mentioned by a few respondents.

The Group discussed the opportunities for further parking provision near Sainsbury's and on-street parking by the petrol station on Alderley Road.

The Group agreed that sufficient parking town centre was essential to support the businesses located there and that the lack of sufficient parking provision leads to the other problems such as parking on residential streets near the town centre.

### Traffic

Emerging policy areas to be addressed:

- The provision of cycle lanes/paths;
- The provision of traffic calming zones;
- Restricted access to certain sizes of vehicles;
- Restricted access to certain vehicles at certain times of the day;
- To address congestion in the town centre.

Emerging policy areas which might possibly be addressed are:

- The level, standard and frequency of maintenance of roads and pavements;
- The problems at particular 'trouble spots' in Wilmslow, eg at certain road junctions.

The Group agreed that traffic flows are likely to change following the completion of the SEMMMS road and the associated improvements to the A34.

### Public Transport

Emerging policy areas to be addressed:

To improve the availability of bus transport;

To encourage a Metrolink extension.

### **Environment**

Jean Hill provided an overview of the environment data and circulated a summary (attached).

Responses fell into several categories:

- Greenery/green spaces;
- Countryside;
- Trees;
- Floral baskets/planters/ Wilmslow in Bloom, Incredible Edible;
- Town Centre;
- Sense of place/locality
- Threats/protection of our green spaces;

- Litter;
- Hedges.

Respondents valued the mix of open space in the town centre which enhances the area.

Respondents indicated a desire to see more, and better use of, green spaces and green corridors in the town.

It was felt that the green spaces make Wilmslow feel more like a small town as opposed to an urban sprawl.

Respondents' dislikes included threats to green spaces eg housing encroachment and loss of Greenbelt. It was felt that too much building takes away green spaces.

Jean Hill informed the Group that Transition Wilmslow was undertaking a Landscape Character Assessment to help inform appropriate sites for development.

There is a need to identify green areas Wilmslow currently has.

The group agreed that good quality hard-landscaped spaces were also very important in the town.

Emerging policy areas to be addressed:

- The need for more parks;
- Better access to green spaces;
- Better links between green spaces;
- Utilisation of windfall sites to protect from loss of green spaces;
- Green infrastructure.

#### **'Other Comments'**

Stuart Redgard highlighted some of the comments included in the 'Other' category, some of which were identified as being appropriate to being included in the 9 existing categories.

#### **Leisure**

The Chairman asked Kate Sibthorp to address the group regarding the need for more community space in Wilmslow to provide space for young people's groups. Currently there are a couple of rooms at the Leisure Centre. The group discussed how the British Legion site could be better used whilst still retaining the bowling green. The Library also has rooms but no public toilets. It was agreed that whilst the town already has some spaces these may not be being used sufficiently and could possibly be better used to provide for the needs of the town.

The other categories will be reviewed at the next meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

#### **2016/0131 NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 22 November 2016 ( 7 pm United Reformed Church )