

Minutes of Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Steering Group meeting, 26th May 2015

Meeting Number 16

Present: Nikki Wilson (chair), Rob Hewlett, Jane Brentor, Helen Willcox, Margaret Tribe, Lucy Norman

Apologies: Hilary Mace, Ian Draper, Alan Foster, Graham Humphries, Sally Lacey, Susan Barnhurst-Davies, Mike Norman, Peter Favier, Adam Hayward, Dave Mace, Richard Ford, Ian Campbell, John Elliott

		Actions
1.	It was noted that this meeting was not quorate because there were no councillors present and very low numbers. However, the meeting went ahead with the agreement that any decisions would be made via email circulation and personal discussions (however, see later).	
2.	<p><u>Minutes of the last Meeting</u></p> <p>Rob Hewlett made the point that the minutes did not reflect the discussion held at the last meeting in relation to the response to the DPD (Development Plan Document) consultation. This had been made in the name of the Parish Council and the NP Steering Group but had not been the result of agreement by members and should not be said to represent Steering Group views. Nikki accepted that timing deadlines had prevented full discussion and that Rob's view had some justification. She would contact the PC and Wiltshire Council to clarify the issue.</p>	NW
3.	<p><u>Update from meeting with Wiltshire Council</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes of the meeting with WC will be circulated with these minutes and were shared at the meeting. NB For these minutes to be relevant it is important that they are read in conjunction with the attached WC meeting notes. Some discussion took place around point 1, mostly regarding the opportunity for developers to work together to achieve a combined access point to the A338 via the roundabout at Batten Road. (The steering group heard that although the strip of land to the West of the roundabout was privately owned, Taylor Wimpey have a first option on the land making it possible to use this as an access point). It was suggested that the NP could make the views of the Parish residents clearer rather than simply accepting the current planning applications in the hands of the developers and Wiltshire Council. For instance, a different and stronger statement could be made about limiting the size of individual developer's applications and working together to develop a strip development with a road onto the Batten Road roundabout. Further discussion on point 3 resulted in those present being inclined to identify site preferences in the Plan, especially with the reassurance from Wiltshire Council that this would not be a 'green light' to increased development beyond the current allocation and would be more likely to protect Downton from ad hoc development if and when numbers greater than the 190 houses are required. The NP could make some clear stipulations that could offer some protection rather than leaving open ended opportunities in the longer term future if the Core Strategy were revised or if housing need or land availability changed. A checklist provided by WC would aid analysis of site preferences. This checklist is also being circulated with the minutes. In relation to point 8, it was noted that greater clarity and rewording of the policies and proposals is needed with surety of justification on each point. This will require some intensive work on the policies and proposals but would increase the purpose and usefulness of the NP as a whole. Those present agreed that the meeting with WC had widened our options and, although there was regret that we did not have this clarity in the past, it was felt that we should maximise this opportunity now. It was agreed that the above discussion represented quite a different approach to that taken to date and, as such, would need ratification by a quorate Steering 	<p>JB</p> <p>JB</p>

