

**Draft Minutes of the meeting of Hungerford NP project team** held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 7pm in the Community Room, Fire Station.

Present – Cllr Richard Hudson (RH), Chris Scorey (CS), Cllr Jerry Keates (JK), John Ryder (JR), Cllr James Cole (JC), and Town Clerk (TC)

1. **Note apologies** – Cllr Keith Carlson (KC), Cllr Alistair Fyfe (AF), Cllr Claire Winser (CW). Cllr Helen Simpson (HS).
2. **Agree minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024** – RH proposed the minutes, seconded by JK, all in favour. All actions are complete. It was noted we don't wish to rush our plan as it needs to be adopted after the Local Plan, so it doesn't override our NDP.
3. **Feedback from WBC (West Berks Council) Highways and Drainage to the consultation**  
WBC have now responded to our consultation with a complete package which our consultant has been through and interpreted. RH has cross-referenced and agrees with all changes excluding one which is the deletion of a significant item, the plan for a proposed footpath we wanted between Cottrell Close and St Saviours' Cemetery. RH recommends still including this in our NDP as it is a useful connection and avoids having to walk along the busy A338. HTC as landowner is comfortable with a path across the cemetery. Another main change to the plan that WBC suggested is to use the housing mix from our housing survey, which seems sensible. We have adopted pretty much all of WBC's comments except where the level of detail given by certain departments on aspects is seen as too high. WBC highways and drainage didn't highlight any problems with the plan.

**ACTION:** RH to circulate a clean PDF version of the plan and a tracked changes version.

**ACTION:** RH to complete a consultation report which he has started and send to our consultant by mid-October.

**ACTION:** NDP team to submit any comments on the draft NDP to RH by 9<sup>th</sup> October (2 weeks today).

It was asked if the 44-apartment development at the station can count towards our housing target. This has been asked previously and we were advised it would be seen as windfall. (in addition). It hasn't got agreed planning permission on it yet, but the application went to E&P committee in June. The rules around the employment site and reclassification to residential were queried. Page 32 Action D were read out which clarifies the situation should a main employer relocate. It is not referring to the above-mentioned development.

4. **Local Green Spaces and response from Bewley**  
Bewley raised a query about the Local Green Space being identified at Lancaster Park. They didn't object but felt it didn't meet the criteria. We have since contacted residents and they feel it is significant and important to the town and are happy to see it go ahead. It has recreational use and will be part wildflower meadow. Therefore, we have chosen to continue to identify it as a Local Green Space.
5. **Accept costs of new consultant** – Our consultant is now operating under a team with other employees for a new employer LUC (landuse.co.uk). He will still head up the work on our NDP. RH proposed we continue to use our consultant, seconded by JK, all in favour.

**ACTION:** Advise our consultant.

6. **NPPF consultation and Local Plan Review impact** – Hungerford so far has not been allocated any extra housing numbers by WBC as they have found sites elsewhere.

7. **Regulation 16 and consultation statement** – RH is currently putting together a consultation statement which the planning inspector will look at alongside the draft NDP. When we send through the Regulation 16 documents to WBC, they will carry out a 6-week consultation and the response to it will be sent straight to the inspector to decide any changes.

8. **Review the timeline.** WBC will organise the referendum, planned for spring 2025. This will work out well as it will tie up with the delay WBC has with its Local Plan.

**ACTION:** Add an agenda item to the HTC (Hungerford Town Council) October Full Council meeting to approve the final draft NDP. If any substantive changes are required, it will be resubmitted to the November Full Council meeting.

9. **Any other correspondence** – None discussed.

10. **Next meeting date** – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024, 7pm. Fire Station Community Room.

Meeting finished at 8.15pm