



Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group- (NPAG)

Minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2023 at 18:00 hours, Arlebury Recreation Centre

Present - Councillors A. Bean, M. Byrne, B. Jeffs.
Jan Field, Lorraine Bailey, Gareth Rees
James Riley (Aecom)
Troy Hayes (virtual)

**Public-
Minutes-** Cllr A Sprott
F Simpson

AG22/067 **To receive apologies.**
Resolved: No apologies were received.

AG22/068 **Presentation by James Riley on the Habitats Regulation Assessment.**
A representative from Aecom explained to the committee that a Habitats Regulation Assessment is a focused piece of work which considers the environmental effects of a Neighbourhood Plan.
Technical assessments including nutrient neutrality calculations will be conducted and linked to a Sites Assessment Policy in the Neighbourhood Plan. This will be sent to WCC for approval and shared with Natural England.

AG22/069 **To approve the minutes and recommendations of the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group meeting held on 13th February 2023.**
Resolved: That the minutes and recommendations of NPAG meeting held on 13th February 2023 are approved.

AG22/070 **To decide how to publicise the Local Heritage List nominations.**
Varying methods of communicating the Heritage List to residents were agreed by NPAG, including posters, Facebook and NATC website.

AG22/071 **Finalise visions and objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan**
Troy Planning will have produced and finalised a draft visions & objectives paper for the May NPAG meeting. It will be made up of headlines of principles which will be viewed at the public engagement day planned for June 2023.

AG22/072 **Public participation for twenty minutes to allow members of the public present to raise questions and make comments regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.**
Cllr Sprott spoke to NPAG as a member of the public regarding the Barn Meadow green space, formerly a working water meadow. It has been put forward by the owner as a SHELAA site. Barn Meadow site is being assessed as part of the Site Assessment and SEA work and the HRA. This area has SAC and triple SSSI designations located nearby.
Cllr Sprott strongly feels that this area needs protection as it provides the potential to increase biodiversity and could be returned to its former use as a

water meadow which would reduce flooding downstream. Walkers and residents enjoy the views of the meadow.
Natural England will of course look at this document via the Habitat Regulations Assessment.

- AG22/073 To receive an update on local green spaces.**
Troy Planning are currently working on a draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) document which NPAG will review and comment upon at the next committee meeting. All the green spaces will be photographed and catalogued by NPAG members ready to present to the public at the consultation day in June.
- AG22/074 To review The Strategic Environmental Assessment for the New Alresford Neighbourhood Plan.**
A scoping report for this was completed in February and NPAG will now consider any other required additions bearing in mind that a 10% net gain of biodiversity will become a requirement by November. In addition, views from the town and water neutrality may need to be verified.
- AG 22/075 To consider whether to ask WCC if New Alresford can adopt a two Stage Neighbourhood Plan approach.**
NPAG agreed to ask WCC strategic planning if a two-stage approach for the Neighbourhood Plan could be considered. This is due to the plan being in advance of the new WCC Local Plan, where the housing figure for New Alresford has not yet been evaluated at the Local Plan Examination and has not yet been adopted by WCC.

The meeting closed at 20.05 hours.

Next Meeting: 17th April 2023 at 1800 hours Alresford Recreation Centre.
