



NEWPORT (Shropshire) TOWN COUNCIL

The Guildhall, High St, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 7AR

Tel: 01952 814338 Mobile: 07525335575

✉ townclerk@newportsaloptowncouncil.co.uk

LJ/2014/NDP

15th July 2014

Summary of notes, recommendations and actions
following a meeting of the Newport Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group
held in The Guildhall, The High Street on Monday 14th Jul 2014

Present:

Cllr Tim Nelson – Steering Group Chairman
Cllr Terry Spooner – Newport Town Council
Cllr Peter Scott – Newport Town Council
Janet Clarke – Newport & District Civic Society
Patrick Beech – Chairman Newport Chamber of Commerce
Charles Worth – Newport 21 (in part)
Michael Atherton – Newport Town Team
Lee Jakeman - Town Clerk
Sheila Atkinson - Deputy Town Clerk

Apologies:

Cllr Lyn Fowler – Town Council
Cllr Phil Norton – Town Council
Clare Francis – Telford & Wrekin Council
Rev Steve Mitchell- Newport Churches
Tim Pryce – Newport Tourist Information
Eric Carter – Chairman Newport Regeneration Partnership
Cath Edwards – Newport 21
Steve Jones – Town Plan Steering Group

Meeting started at 6.15pm.

Agenda Topic	Summary	Actions/ comments/ outcomes
Welcome	Cllr Nelson welcomed members and noted that an additional member of the Steering Group had been appointed - Mr Steve Jones.	Noted.
Apologies	Apologies were noted - See above	Noted.
Previous meeting	Members noted receipt of the notes of the previous meeting	Noted
Consultation Event 27 Jun	<p>Observations made included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event supported by 8 Steering Group members. • The event had captured a different demographic than the library event. • In general the questions were considered suitable to be rolled out at other similar events. • The employment questions were ‘closed’ questions and would benefit from being re-worded to allow wider comment. • The questions on sustainability would have benefited from a more detailed explanation. Respondents generally in favour of ‘sustainability’ however understanding of the definition somewhat varied. • There had been lengthy debate between Steering Group members around NDP themes and wider issues. 	Noted
Newport Churches Together 19 Jun	<p>Observations made included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The event was conducted at the request of Rev Mitchell and delivered by the Deputy Town Clerk. • The audience included parishioners from as far as Muxton and Tibberton. • The presentation had led to an attendee subsequently visiting the Guildhall to obtain more detailed literature and comment forms to distribute amongst wider church members. 	Noted

Old Tyme Market 20 Jun	Observations made included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The event was an ‘awareness’ event supported by Cllrs Nelson and Norton. • The NDP stall was in a prominent position and footfall was significant. • The event saw many hundreds of people attend many of whom took a few moments to obtain a broad overview. • While many people did not engage directly they acknowledged its presence and therefore future events would benefit from the ‘sowing of the seed’ at this event. 	Noted
Advisory Group Updates	-----	-----
Process Management Group	Nil	Noted
Sustainability (et al) Group (Charles Worth)	The Town Plan findings strongly support the increase of trees in the Town. However, some considered work needs undertaking to develop a ‘Tree Strategy’. Purpose and suitability and wider benefit needs to be fully appreciated – there are major differences between a poplar and a mountain ash.	Noted.
Town Identity/character /parking/ heritage (Mike Atherton)	A well-constructed brief was tabled and included a number of overlapping issues that were of use to other groups. The topic of engagement with Harper Adams University and Lilleshall Hall was discussed and their benefits to the Town.	Noted. SG Members asked to obtain a view from their respective memberships on the question should Newport be proud/embrace/promote its ‘University’ status?
Leisure Economy and Transport Tim Price	Nil	Noted

<p>Employment (Pat Beech/Eric Carter)</p>	<p>Members noted that the NRP response to Shaping Places had been forwarded to the Steering Group. The document is available on the Town Council website along with most other forms of NDP consultation evidence.</p> <p>It was noted that the submission referred to parcels of land outside the boundary of the Newport NDP.</p> <p>For the NDP process the employment theme needs to, more specifically, address the areas of land and employment opportunities within the parish boundary of the Town.</p> <p>The emerging local plan is considering options for employment land sites and the NDP steering group will need to monitor the developing shape of the emerging local plan and amend its direction accordingly (for example: if the emerging local plan appears to be promoting the same outcomes as the NDP then there might not be a need to address the matter in the NDP. Conversely, should the emerging local plan be vague then any employment element of the NDP needs to be detailed and robust.</p> <p>It was noted the employment model has changed over the years and will continue to do so. As an example, the number of home workers has increased significantly and matters such as broadband connectivity might be more important to some than large-scale employment sites.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>NDP boundary is specifically the parish boundary of Newport. Elements of development that fall outside this boundary (however important) are not directly relevant to the NDP.</p>
<p>Policy Co-ordination (Janet Clarke)</p>	<p>The documented evidence obtained to date, including the Town Plan (1300+ respondents), AMT Town Centre Survey (200+ respondents), Steering Group public consultation events (50+ respondents) and the engagement of groups and organisations (including the Chamber of Commerce, Newport Town Team, Newport 21 and the Newport Regeneration Partnership) provided a reasonable basis for the Steering Group to confirm the most probable policy themes of the NDP. More consultation is always helpful.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

<p>Evidence</p>	<p>Some concern was expressed regarding the lack of engagement and understanding of the process to the wider public. More events similar to the 'Phez' consultation were considered to have value. Cllr Scott offered to organise/support additional events. The Coffee shop in Waitrose and a presence on Central Square on one of the market days were considered.</p> <p>Individuals and Steering Group Advisory Groups are able to conduct their own independent consultations and report back. The questions from the 27 June 14 consultation are still valid and can be found on the Town Council's web site.</p> <p>It was generally considered that consultation to date had provided sufficient evidence to confirm the themes and in turn likely policy aims of the NDP albeit some needed better defining.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Cllr Scott to identify suitable dates and locations for Central Square consultation.</p> <p>Consultation evidence needs to be documented appropriately to include the author, how the evidence was captured and who (or how many participated) to ensure that it stands up to independent scrutiny (that it is not one person's view).</p>
<p>Review</p>	<p>Dialogue with the Management of Harper Adams University (as the area's most significant employer, both in terms of technical expertise and number and its pastoral role to some 2,900 students) was considered essential to develop NDP policies that were tangible, acknowledged the wider impacts of planning policy and that were well informed.</p> <p>It was agreed that an independent planning consultant be engaged to review objectively and critically the evidence obtained by the NDP Steering Group. The aims of which would be: independently identifying the potential policy areas producing an outline draft plan (having due regard for the current and emerging local plans) to give a view on general conformity.</p>	<p>Clerk to identify suitable opportunity for the Process Management Group engage.</p> <p>Process Management Group to oversee appointment and terms of reference for external consultant- Steering Group members to be kept informed during the process.</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>To be confirmed</p>	<p>Clerk to advise members accordingly.</p>