



NEWPORT (Shropshire) TOWN COUNCIL

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LJ/2013/NDP

5th November 2013

Summary of Notes and recommendations of Meeting of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group held in 3a The High Street on Monday 4th November 2013

INTRODUCTION

1. In attendance:

Cllr Nelson

Cllr Norton

Cllr Scott

Town Clerk – Mr Jakeman

Deputy Town Clerk – Mrs Atkinson

2. Meeting started at 7.15pm

3. A brief discussion regarding the process, purpose, powers and limitations of an NDP occurred.

a. It was noted that the boundary for the plan had now been legally defined. A map designating that area is attached (it covers the 4 electoral wards of Newport). It was noted that the specific boundary of Newport might not be fully appreciated by many.

b. Members considered the recent NDPs that had been approved including Thame Town Council and Tattenhall and District Council. It was noted that many of the themes and much of the language in the Tattenhall plan were similar to expressions or positions that the planning committee have regularly expressed (e.g. in relation to the Town Council's planning principles). It was noted that the Thame NDP resembled in style a local plan, in that it tried to replicate large areas of the local plan.

c. It was noted that:

- Any NDP would become a piece of planning policy.

- Any NDP must be compatible with national and local planning policy. (e.g. if the local plan says 60 houses per year for ten years, the NDP cannot say only 10 houses per year).
 - To be adopted a NDP requires support at a referendum. Only residents living within the defined boundary can vote in any referendum and to be approved at least 50.1% of the vote must vote Yes.
 - Before going to referendum any Draft NDP would need to be verified by an independent examiner. The NDP would be checked against conformity with regional and national plans and prove that sufficient consultation took place.
 - Consultation should engage all those that work, live or otherwise have an interest in the Town – a different population than those that will have the opportunity to vote in any referendum.
 - The Town Plan questionnaire, currently being circulated, would undoubtedly provide some direction and be considered as part of the public consultation. It had always been intended that the Town Plan process would inform, in general terms, the NDP process (where it overlaps).
 - There currently exists a Newport Town Centre Design Guide and a Water Lane Planning Statement.
- d. While there was much working knowledge in and around the council and some local community groups, independent external assistance would be required (at a cost) to ensure an appropriately worded NDP was produced that had relevance and understanding of the widest planning legislation and future development by those that were operating in the sector and therefore had current skills. Furthermore, a contractual arrangement helps to manage timescales that are not necessarily guaranteed by volunteers.
- e. Telford & Wrekin Council were mandated to support Newport Town Council in preparing its draft NDP through the provision of information (e.g. provision of maps and plans), direction regarding relevance to the local plan, professional planning advice.

The meeting finished at 9.25

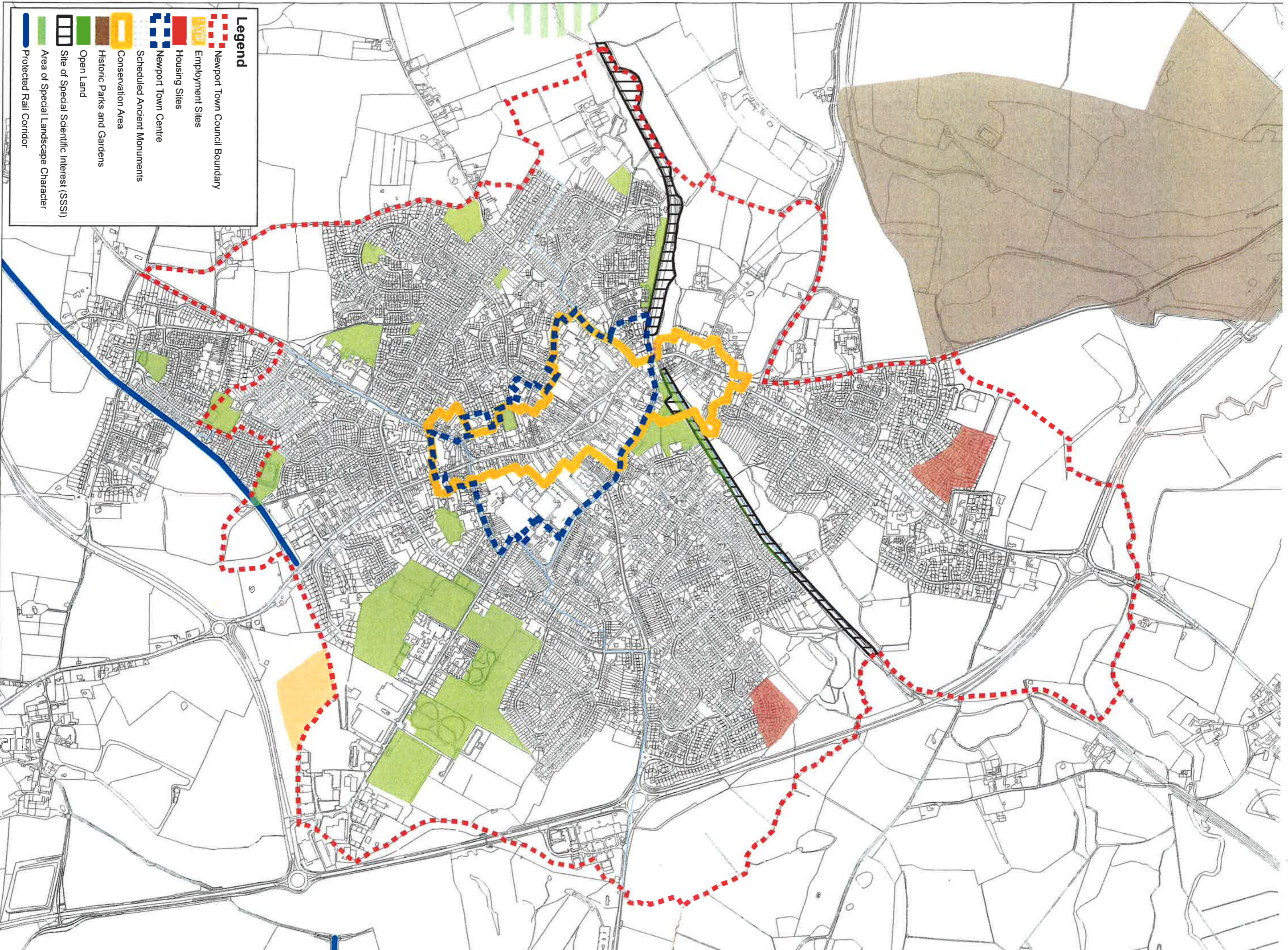
RECOMMENDATIONS

4. The next meeting of the NDP steering group should include an invitation to the leader of each appropriate outside body (those that had either expressed an interest previously or were likely to have some specific focus that might be beneficial to the development of a draft NDP) e.g:
- The Newport Regeneration Partnership
 - The Newport Town Team
 - Newport & District Civic Society
 - Newport 21
 - Newport Town Plan Implementation Group

5. The next meeting would be primarily an opportunity to brief outside bodies on the process and understand how they might be able to contribute to aspects of the draft NDP.
6. The focus of the Newport Town Council NDP should be to steer away from replicating the local plan and be an overarching plan. It is probably better served by being a piece of policy that identifies the uniqueness of Newport and/or comments where the local plan appears to be silent.
7. Funding of £15k be set-aside in the 2013/14 budget to fund external and independent planning policy advice (e.g. locality/ planning aid) and facilitate consultation events.
8. To be effective and successful at referendum the plan needs to be simple and focussed on a small number of policy, probably 5 or 6, but no more than 10.
9. Initial themes/ policy areas to be considered:
 - Formal identification of a list of green spaces to protect them for future generations.
 - House build quality
 - Balanced Housing stock
 - Parking
 - Town identity and character
 - Trees
 - Sustainability
 - High Street Signage
10. Next meeting to take place before the end of November.



Lee Jakeman
Town Clerk



Legend

- - - Newport Town Council Boundary
- Employment Sites
- Housing Sites
- Newport Town Centre
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Conservation Area
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Open Land
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Area of Special Landscape Character
- Protected Rail Corridor



Telford & Wrekin
COUNCIL

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Title: Newport Parish Planning Consultation

Drawn By: S. Donohue

Date: 7th October 2013

Scale = 1:10,000 @ A3

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