

**Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Delivery and Monitoring Group Meeting
held at Corsham Town Hall on Thursday 16 January 2025**

Present Councillor S Abbott (Chair)
Wiltshire Councillor D Walters
Councillor R Williams

In Attendance K Gilby (Finance and Planning Officer)
D Martin (Chief Executive)

DMG 222 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors N Brakspear, T Bush, N Farmer and G McCaffery also from C Johnson (Pickwick Association) and J Peeters (Resident).

P Whalley (Resident) had resigned from the group.

DMG 223 Public Question Time and Petitions.

There were none.

DMG 224 Declarations of Interest

To receive any Declaration(s) of Interest under Corsham Town Council's Code of Conduct issued in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

There were none.

DMG 225 Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Delivery and Monitoring Group Meeting held on Thursday 14 November 2024

Agreed: That the Minutes be agreed as a true record.

DMG 226 Matters arising from the above Minutes

There were none.

DMG 227 Technical Support Packages Update

The Chief Executive and Planning and Finance Officer had attended online meetings with representatives from AECOM regarding the Technical Support Packages for Housing Needs Assessment and Site Options and Assessment. Both packages were due to be completed in approximately 10 weeks' time. A local Housing Needs Survey was underway to supplement the work being undertaken by AECOM. A copy of the survey was attached. *

The closing date for responses was 7 February. Those present were asked to promote to the survey to their contacts.

Agreed: All Town Councillors would be asked to encourage those they know, with a housing need, to complete the survey. The survey would also be placed in the Estate Agents in the town.

DMG 228 Character Assessments

Following the training session on 12 December 2024 the Character Assessment packs were available from the Town Hall. Members were encouraged to complete at least one area. If possible, data should be returned by the end of January. 15 of the 28 areas were currently being covered by volunteers

Agreed: The Finance and Planning Officer would share a completed assessment once available to encourage uptake. To send Councillors and Group members a list of the areas which did not have an assessor. A link to the updated Batscape Strategy would also be sent to the Group.

DMG 229 Non-Designated Heritage Assets and Local Green Spaces

A poster asking residents to put forward areas or assets to be assessed was attached. The poster was being displayed and promoted through the Town Council's website and facebook, copy attached. * The closing date for nominations was 7 February 2025. Once we have a list, volunteers would be needed to carry out the assessments. Garry Ford, Environmental Officer would promote the scheme to his contacts and put together a group of volunteers to assess any nominations for Local Green Spaces. It was mentioned that Wiltshire Council was updating its Playing Pitch Strategy.

Agreed: The Chief Executive would try to find out more information about Wiltshire Council's Playing Pitch Strategy. The Finance and Planning Officer would send out examples of the kind of spaces and assets that were being put forward for assessment to encourage further uptake.

DMG 230 Wiltshire Council Briefing Note 24-20

Briefing Note 24-20 was attached. * This explained the implications of the recent changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and revisions to the standard methodology on the Housing Land Supply. The changes introduced on 12 December 2024 meant that Wiltshire Council had a substantial shortfall in its housing land supply position (2.03 years). This made it more likely that speculative proposals would come forward and may be granted planning permission.

Agreed: That the Wiltshire Council Briefing Note 24-20 be noted. The Finance and Planning Officer would contact our Link Officer at Wiltshire Council to ask if the housing target for the Neighbourhood Plan Review would be adjusted in light of the changes.

DMG 231 Date and time of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Group would be at 7pm on Thursday 27 February 2025. The updated Project Plan would be an agenda item.