

Present: David Cornish (chair) Graham Jukes Allan Gibson
Andrew Pearce Pauline Grainger

Apologies: Roger Marshallsay Roland Cundy

AGENDA

Feedback from the Parish Council and Borough Councillor meetings

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2021 were approved. A hard copy will be filed and an electronic version sent to the parish clerk for inclusion on the FNDP webpage.

1. RM email DC to ask if he would take over submission of Locality form. On agenda CLOSED
2. AG confirm sign off of Reg 14 report. On agenda CLOSED

AGENDA

AG reported that Liz Alexander had advised she was leaving Bell Cornwell and the new contact is Jonathan Jarman. She commented that the FNDP group was the most organised she had worked with and it had been a pleasure.

DC advised he would be talking to RM as soon as he returned from holiday about the Locality grant application. AG was keen that this proceeded as quickly as possible whilst we still have an argument for a housing allocation. GJ felt RM would not change his mind over the submission and offered to assist DC if he ended up submitting the forms.

DC reported on the meetings held with Parish and Borough councillors to discuss the List of Sites.

Borough Councillors: DC reported they were broadly supportive of our suggestions and the path we were taking and one of the councillors felt we could offer up fewer than we were proposing although this was not the consensus opinion. There was mention of a larger site in Wokingham Without that might eventually help WBC out with its housing numbers to a significant extent and the suggestion of a site on the boundary of Finchampstead for social housing. WBC is hoping to have the WBC LPU agreed by the end of September. Also they shared that the housing supply number is falling fast. The councillors offered to attend any discussions we held with WBC on the subject of allocated sites/housing.

Parish Councillors: This group were fully supportive of the proposed list of 11 sites and accepted one of the locations on the reserve list of 5 sites as a fall-back position. The lists came out of the discussions at the SG/PMG meeting on 15th July and the decisions made – consensus, agreed, referred, rejected.

AG asked DC to re-order the reserve list in order of preference ahead to the PMG meeting this afternoon.

Discussion followed as to how to move into discussion with WBC re proposed list of sites.

- Offer site with largest number of units initially than use other agreed sites to negotiate – this could drag on and time is of the essence
- Offer all agreed sites to give us certainty holding back first choice site on reserve list as negotiating tool – our agreed list is process driven so can't be fully substantiated
- Take a view from Bell Cornwell
- In the light of a falling housing supply we need to proceed asap with NDP to give us the 3 year protection
- AG felt JM and his team won't be able to negotiate at this stage as they will be concentrating on the LPU
- AG felt a first meeting asap with JM and team could act as a process check and also ensure our work on green spaces and key gaps gets into the LPU . He suggests we approach it as a meeting as a result of the Reg 14 consult and where we've got to and then if they are then prepared to discuss particular sites have a further meeting to discuss the topic paper on the sites

GJ questioned the format of a second consultation and AG advised it would be a consult on the site allocation topic paper and would require a six week period. The draft FNDP did not need to be consulted on as policies had not changed – there would merely be reference in it to the topic paper as an appendix.

AP felt we could “sell” the proposed sites as the lesser of two evils – if we promote these it will prevent development on our green spaces/key gaps. AG also added that there are not enough sites within the current development limits so we had looked at the area as a whole.

AG mentioned he had had a letter from Bewley homes asking for a meeting to discuss Church Farm and it was decided that he would say this area was not being promoted by the FNDP and DC suggested he used his letter sent to a developer about Longwater Road as a template.

AG stated he wanted to get the Reg 14 consult document on the website and there was agreement this should go ahead. DC will make any minor adjustments (names attributed to comments) at a later date as this did not change the document.

Meeting closed 10.22am

Date of next meeting: 10th August 9.30am

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Date:.....

Actions

1. DC speak to RM and agree who will submit Locality Grant application asap
2. DC re-order reserve list for PMG meeting 27-7-21
3. AG make contact with Jonathan Jarman, Bell Cornwell
4. DC send AG Longwater Rd response letter