

**Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Delivery and Monitoring Group Meeting
held at Corsham Town Hall on Thursday 25 January 2024**

Present Councillor S Abbott (Chair)
Councillor N Brakspear
Councillor N Farmer
J Peeters (Resident)
Wiltshire Councillor D Walters
P Whalley (Resident)
Councillor R Williams

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

In Attendance Online Councillor R Hopkinson, P Tapscott (Resident).

DMG 178 Apologies

Apologies had been received from C Johnson (Pickwick Association) and Councillor G McCaffery.

DMG 179 Public Question Time and Petitions.

There were none.

DMG 180 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 181 Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Delivery and Monitoring Group Meeting held on Thursday 9 November 2023.

Agreed: That the Minutes be approved.

DMG 182 Matters arising from the above Minutes

DMG 166 – The draft updated Batscape Strategy was with Wiltshire Council Ecologists and we were awaiting their comments.

DMG 176 – PW queried Wiltshire Council's rationale for choosing site 3 as opposed to site 4 as an allocation for housing for Corsham. Corsham Town Council's response to the Local Plan Review

Consultation had asked Wiltshire Council to review the criteria used to assess possible sites for development. For example, the potential impact of development of increased traffic on congested routes does not seem to have been considered. Wiltshire Council was also asked to ensure that there was consistency in the use of the assessment criteria. KG would forward Wiltshire Council's Site Selection Report to all members of the Neighbourhood Plan Delivery and Monitoring Group.

DMG 183 Neighbourhood Plan Review

The vision and objectives of the current Corsham Neighbourhood Plan were discussed with a view to updating them for the Corsham Neighbourhood Plan to 2038.

Agreed: The vision and objectives would be updated to reflect a clearer focus on sustainability and climate change; recognises and caters for the needs of older and/or less able residents in addition to young adults; provides the infrastructure required to enable more sustainable neighbourhoods.

The title of the revised Corsham Neighbourhood Plan was discussed.

Agreed: To change the end date and the colour of the front cover. To seek advice from Wiltshire Council on whether a start date was required and, if so, what the most appropriate start date might be.

DMG 184 Draft Consultants' Brief

The Draft Consultants' Brief prepared by the Finance and Planning Officer was discussed. Early consultation with the community would be arranged in house.

Agreed: DM would seek briefs and selection criteria from other local councils including the questions asked of consultants when their final selection was undertaken. The community aspect of development would be fed into the brief possibly, in Section 2. The possibility of breaking down the stages further would be explored to take account of possible grant funding. DM and KG would work on the brief in consultation with the Chair of the NP D and M Group with a view to sending it out as soon as practicable.

DMG 185 Draft Project Plan

The draft Project Plan was discussed. The timescales were ambitious but a good starting point.

Agreed: That the Project Plan be approved.

DMG 186 Access to the Railway Station Site

A planning application discussed at a recent Town Council Planning Meeting could impact our longer-term ambitions for an access road to the Corsham Railway Station site. SA, DM, KG and RH had met with Wiltshire Council Planning Officers to discuss the application and its implications. Until the Local Plan for Wiltshire is adopted there is an opportunity for the Neighbourhood Plan review to include community

aspirations which could potentially include an access road to the Railway Station site.

DMG 187 Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework

Recent changes to the National Planning Policy Framework were discussed. Of note, one of the changes means that, currently, Wiltshire Council does not have to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply (as previously), instead it need only demonstrate a four-year housing land supply. Other changes meant that Neighbourhood Plans which are less than five years old and allocate sites for housing will not be subject to the 'tilted' balance, meaning that speculative housing planning applications are less likely to be recommended for approval where there is a conflict with the Neighbourhood Plan.

DMG 188 Date and time of next meeting.

To be agreed once the consultants' briefs have been received. The Finance and Planning Officer to arrange and advise.