

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Minutes of a meeting of
the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group
held on 23 June 2011

PRESENT	REPRESENTING
Jake Berriman	Shropshire Council
Cllr. Milner Whiteman	Shropshire Council
Kerry Rogers	Shropshire Council
Gill Jones	Shropshire Council
Faith Smith	Parish Plan
Cllr. Matthew Green	Much Wenlock Town Council
Cllr. Lesley Durbin	Much Wenlock Town Council
Cllr. Robert Stuart	Much Wenlock Town Council
Cllr. David Turner	Much Wenlock Town Council
IN ATTENDANCE	
Sharon Clayton – Town Clerk	Much Wenlock Town Council

1) CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

In the absence of Cllr. Mike Grace Cllr. Matthew Green chaired the meeting.

2) APOLOGIES

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Jeff Davis	Parish Plan
Cllr. Mike Grace	Much Wenlock Town Council
Howard Horsley	Parish Plan
Cllr. Anna Dugdale	Much Wenlock Town Council

3) NOTES OF 7 JUNE 2011

The notes from a meeting held on 7 June 2011 were NOTED.

4) UPDATE ON THE TECHNICAL PLANNING MATTERS GROUP MEETING HELD ON 7 JUNE 2011

Members received an update from a meeting held on 7 June 2011 attended by Jake Berriman, Andy Mortimer, Cllr. Matthew Green, Cllr. Robert Stuart and Howard Horsley. It was felt that the number of homes to be built over the next 4 years was not too much to disapprove of. Windfall land is 'whiteland' that comes forward without development proposals.

There is an ongoing tension between Shropshire Council (SC) and Much Wenlock Town Councillors concerning the point at which the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) becomes part of the Development Plan. In fact, Town Councillors are concerned whether the NP will ever be part of the development plan at all, and are concerned that SC wants to see the NP adopted after the SAMDev has been adopted, which will be the following year. Shropshire Council says the NP will become part of the SAMDev plan although it may be further down the line. Local authorities are being asked by government to bring forward the plans as soon as possible within the requirements of the Localism Bill.

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SC will be responsible for the examination and the referendum and therefore does not want to adopt a NP until after the SAMDev has been adopted. SC does not want a situation in Much Wenlock that cannot be re-produced. All NPs in Shropshire need to be on an equal footing with parity throughout, and SC does not want a unique situation with Much Wenlock. Shropshire is in advance with localism and SC thinks there should be a two stage process of adoption of the NP which can be done within current legislation, and stage two will occur once the Act is in place.

It is not clear whether SC will allocate land or the NP? SC intends to have a single Local Plan, (Core Strategy and SAMDev). Much Wenlock may be able to retain elements of the Bridgnorth District Plan if it wants to.

SC consultation and consultation on the NP can be tied in together. Consultation will reveal whether the Much Wenlock community approves of the land allocation proposed by SC. So that SC can deliver the strategic part of its plan it must satisfy itself that SAMDev can undergo examination with sound information.

It was proposed that the NP process should proceed and try to resolve the conflict concerning site allocation. The NP process is about facilitating site allocation taking into consideration feedback from the local community. Because of the geographical nature of Much Wenlock the local community is very concerned about site allocation.

SC will begin consultation in September/October 2011 on a refined SAMDev, and this part of the work can be done with the Town Council, and with Town Council's branding, as part of the NP if so desired. This is an area of tension between the two parties.

5) MINUTES FROM THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP MEETING HELD ON 16 JUNE 2011

Press releases for recruiting volunteers have been published and the Town Council is now awaiting interest from members of the public. Plans to install signage on 'gateways' to the town are also being considered. It is hoped that, when volunteers come forward, a steering group will be established, and this may change the make-up of the present Working Group, and form a new Steering Group.

A summary of Community Involvement has been drafted by the Community Engagement Group, which can be distributed as a leaflet, in order to kick-start the process for the NP. It was proposed that a date should be established for when the Statement of Community Involvement should be adopted.

A budget of £20,000 has been assigned to Much Wenlock and further clarification is needed as to who can hold the funds, Shropshire Council or the Town Council. The funds are presently in SC's bank account.

6) THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROCESS

There are a number of organisations offering free planning support, of which CABE is one. It was agreed that a programme/timeline for producing the NP should be established so that it is complete within 18 months. The meeting was informed that communication with the media had begun, and local publishers had agreed to publish a press release, which had also been posted on the Town Council's website and on its notice board. It was suggested that results from consultation should be monitored.

The governance and accountability of those involved with the NP has to be approved by the Town Council at its meeting on 7 July 2011.

7) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday 21 July 2011.