

Newbury Town Plan Steering Group

Minutes of meeting held at 7.30 pm Wednesday 11 January 2017, in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, and Newbury

Present:

- Newbury Town Council: Councillors Lynne Doherty, Adrian Edwards, Miles Evans, John Gardner, Elizabeth O’Keeffe, Anthony Pick (Chairman) and Howard Bairstow.
- Speen Parish Council: Councillor Alan Booth
- Shaw-cum-Donnington Parish Council: Councillor Elizabeth Nonweiler
- West Berkshire District Council: Councillor Paul Bryant

In Attendance

Hugh Peacocke, Chief executive Officer, Newbury Town Council

Apologies

Councillor David Goff and Jeanette Clifford (NTC) and Councillor Pragna Hay (Greenham PC)

1. Co-options onto Steering Group.

On the proposal of the Chairman, Councillor Anthony Pick, seconded by Councillor John Gardner, Councillors Paul Bryant and Elizabeth O’Keeffe were co-opted onto the Steering Group.

2. Minutes of meeting on 16 November 2016

The minutes, as circulated, were agreed by the Steering Group.

3. Actions and memberships for the Working Groups

3.1 Reports from Chairpersons

WG2- Planning: (Chairman, Cllr. J. Gardner)

- Will consider the issues referred to WG.
- Other issues raised: topography of Newbury, cost v quality, “people-centred development” and affordable accommodation.
- Town plan should include a map with GIS (Geographic Information System) to illustrate the outcomes of the Plan. Nigel Clifford could possibly advise on this subject.
- Agreed to invite Mr. Raymond Allison to join WG2.

WG3- Transport: (Chairman, Cllr. Jeanette Clifford)

- Cllr. Paul Bryant agreed to join WG3
- He will discuss with Jeanette WBDC roads ambitions.
- Agreed to invite Mr. Alistair Duff to join WG3.

WG4- Business, Commercial and Retail: (Chairman, Cllr. Anthony Pick)

- Russell Downing, MD Newbury BID invited to meeting to discuss issues.
- Wrote to Chamber of Commerce (formal reply), LEP (no reply), MD Parkway (undelivered), MD Kennet Centre (no reply).
- The meeting raised the following issues:
 - Should Newbury provide small units for employment purposes, including start-up/ incubation units?
 - Should we identify a specialist niche, such as a Science Park or a training centre for technological/ science/ research industries?
 - Should we explore development of equine-based industry/ opportunities?
 - How do we address the north/ south split in the Town Centre (Brighton might be an example to look at how different areas in a town centre can be linked)?
 - Should we have all the eateries/ cafes centred in one location?
 - The leading Newbury businesses will be written to for their opinions.

WG5- Tourism, Culture and Leisure: (Chairman to be appointed)

- Cllr. Adrian Edwards pointed out the importance of the canal in Newbury as a tourism/ leisure asset.
- WG to also explore options for more concert hall facilities in Newbury.
- The meeting agreed on the need to meet visitor information needs and promote/ profile Newbury's attractions and facilities.

WG6-Education: (Chairman, Cllr. Lynne Doherty)

- Add pre-school/ nursery facilities to issues to be addressed.
- WBDC forecast/planning info for 7 to 10 years in future but will look for 2036 trajectory for the Plan.
- Newbury College will host event to discuss WG6 issues
- Need to integrate apprenticeship programmes with businesses
- "Elevate"- work programme between LEP and WBDC education dept.
- Grammar schools?
- Will look to involve Newbury Youth Council.
- Additional members of this WG will be welcome.

WG7- Health: (Chairman to be appointed)

Noted that Cllr. Martha Vickers, NTC volunteered to join WG7- invite her to Chair?

WG8- The Environment: (Chairman to be appointed)

The Steering Group welcomed the approach from Mr. Bruce Blaine to join this Working Group and agreed to invite him to chair it.

WG9: Emergency Services- (Chairman to be appointed)

WG10: Places of Worship :(Chairman to be appointed)

- The meeting co-opted Councillor Elizabeth O'Keeffe onto this WG and she agreed to chair it.
- It was agreed to invite Councillor Kuldip Singh Kang to join this WG
- Mr. Andy Moore was approved to join the WG
- The WG will explore options to make adequate provision to 2036, including a possible multi-faith hub
- Will consider available data, such as census 2011

3.2 Responses from Elected members

As above, Councillor Elizabeth O'Keeffe involved in WG10 and Martha Vickers volunteered for Health or Environment.

3.3 Responses from members of the public

- Mr. Raymond Allison invited to join WG2-Planning
- Mr. Alistair Duff invited to join WG3- Transport
- Mr Bruce Blaine invited to chair WG8 – The Environment.
- Mr. Andy Moore was invited to join WG10- Places of Worship
- Mr Richard Hall- awaiting response
- Mr. David Marsh, on behalf of the Green Party- invite any individuals with particular expertise to indicate which WG they might wish to join. Advise that Green Party welcome to respond to consultation later in the year.

4. SWOT analyses prepared for the Newbury Vision Steering Group

The meeting considered the above and agreed to refer any relevant issues to the appropriate WG. Agreed to add the hospital to the list of strengths. It was noted that the current Vision document contained some helpful suggestions for WG's to consider.

5. WG 1- The Character of Newbury (Chairman- Councillor A. Pick)

The meeting noted the issues referred to WG and agreed that it would be helpful to consult others on their ambitions and views of Newbury 2036.

It was suggested that a video might be made to promote Newbury, taking the history and principal features of the Town to project it forward to 2036.

6. WG reporting

- The Chairman will issue a note suggesting the format of reports from the WG's.
- The Chairman and Mr Peacocke are due to meet Ms Jo Naylor of WBC to discuss methods of possible public involvement.

7. Date for the next meeting.

15 February 2017.