

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL



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Minutes of the Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting
21st February 2017 7.30- 9.30pm
Venue STC Offices

1. Present

Graham Cooper, Deirdre Hounsom, Louise Cole, Tim Salt, Andie Miles, Ian McKenzie-Edwards, Jonathan Davey, Michael Earthey, Peter Murphy, Claire Russell

2. Apologies

Richard Thurlow, Jeremy Woodward

3. Minutes of 24th January 2017

Minutes were agreed and are on the NP page of the STC website.

4. Matters Arising

- Actions from the minutes had been completed and copies of the revised protocols document and timeline document were provided to the group.

5. Update from the Chair

All updates were provided elsewhere in the agenda under specific headings.

6. Keith Lane – Planning Policy Officer, EDDC – Infrastructure Delivery Plan

DAH introduced Keith Lane who gave a brief overview of his role and background to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).

The IDP sits alongside the Local Plan and (IDP) gets reviewed and updated every year or so. KL wrote out to all major stakeholders, including Sidmouth Town Council in early January and he is now reviewing the 30-40 responses he received.

The list of projects is broken down into 3 groups determined by level of priority:

- P1 – critical and needed for development
- P2 – important
- P3 – desirable

As a result of the feedback he has bolstered the explanations in the IDP and included a process chart, including the additions of an additional comments column. The next step is to see how the feedback impacts on existing priorities in the IDP and then report to the EDDC Strategic Planning Committee on 29th March 2017 for sign off. He also mentioned that the Villages boundary plan is also currently under review/consultation as part of the wider process. The final version of the IDP will then be published on the EDDC website.

A question and answer session followed which included the following:

- Q: Do agreed Neighbourhood Plans feed into and be linked to the IDP? A: Yes, that would be the expectation.
- Q: What is the relationship between the Local Plan and IDP? A: The IDP informs the Local Plan. It doesn't carry statutory weight. It also informs the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- Q: What is the difference between CIL funding and S106 funding? A: CIL funding is available for projects across the district and the S123 list agreed last year sets out the infrastructure which money raised through CIL will be used to fund in whole or in part. S106 funding is specific to a piece of development/location and its allocation is determined by need, as defined in the Local Plan. It is possible for the Neighbourhood Plan to identify S106 need for specific areas, where it is not currently allocated. KL said he would send a link to the regulation S123 list which was finalised last April and relates to education, open spaces, libraries, health etc as linked to housing growth.
- Q: If the Neighbourhood Plan identifies land which is in addition to the Local Plan allocation, can we insist that S106 money is allocated to that site? A: Much of the detail that will allow a proper judgement to be made about allocation of S106 funding will emerge in the planning application itself but the Neighbourhood Plan policy can set out what it would hope to achieve.
- Q: Is there a specific site in mind for the 50 Extra Care Beds shown in the IDP? A: It's based on a Devon wide survey for which he offered to send a link. This research relates to the projected population make up in the future. (SVSG – will therefore need to look at this evidence.) But there is no specific site in mind.
- Q: Expansion of gym and leisure facilities is mentioned in the IDP but not in the Local Plan? A: Reference to this is based on representations from Leisure East Devon.
- Q: What is the interconnection between the EDDC/STC Port Royal/Eastern Town study and the IDP – it's difficult to understand which plan is the driver? A: The IDP will be updated to provide a better explanation.
- Q: How do you determine priorities for each town in EDDC? A: Priorities are determined by planning proposals included in the Local Plan. But feedback from this group and STC, eg in the case of Alexandria Road Industrial Site access, suggests that the priority may currently be wrong.
- Q: The Park and Change facility is currently identified as Priority 3. Given the pressure on roads and transport shouldn't it be given a higher priority? A: It's P3 because it's not currently linked to a specific development project. If that situation changes the priority status can be reviewed. The SVSG raised the issue of Park and Change and Ride to support easing traffic issues inwards into Sidmouth and to the Town Centre and Esplanade and important to any development at Port Royal. KL said that evidence from a transport study would need to support this to show how it supports development.
- Q: The access route at the Alexandria Road site should be priority 1 or 2 given the 2 small employment land sites there in the Local Plan? KL agreed with this and this will be reviewed in the IDP.
- Q: Port Royal and transport issues which are reflected in the Local Plan don't feature in the IDP – shouldn't these be joined up? A: Given the early stage of the current scoping study being undertaken it's too early to include in the IDP but this will be reviewed as the study progresses.
- Q: Alma Bridge and the Beach Management Plan aren't in the Local Plan or IDP but both are integral to the Port Royal Scoping study and the housing allocation for Port Royal shown in the Local Plan. A: KL said he thought the Beach Management Plan should be included in the IDP but didn't agree that was the case for Alma Bridge given that it wasn't related to housing or employment development. The group pointed out the significance of Alma Bridge to a town which derives significant employment and economic growth from tourism, the coast, the SW Coastal Path, the Jurassic Coast and Alma Bridge is a gateway to much of this. It also helps protect the town from flooding. In addition, the IDP includes the Exe Estuary Way identified in the Lympstone Neighbourhood Plan which is not linked to employment or housing. KL agreed to review the Alma Bridge/Beach Management Plan issue in the light of this, looking at wider economic benefits.
- Sidmouth to Feniton Cycle Route – KL said this is currently listed as Priority 3 as is not critical to development (NOTE: if a case is made in the NP within a policy this may impact the priority). He is aware of the Sustrans study underway.

DAH thanked KL for attending and providing detailed explanations to the group. KL agreed that the process flow he is preparing should include the NP plan as part of the statutory planning process.

7. Port Royal Reference Group

DAH provided an email update based on the meeting she attended on 15th February prior to the meeting

8. Young People's Survey – Analysis Task

Detailed reports from the data analysis for the Young People's survey were distributed to the group along with guidance and a template for Theme Teams to follow. There was a discussion about exactly what was required and how TS had done his initial analysis. If people had any queries or concerns they should contact him by phone or email for assistance/clarification. LC and TS talked through the instructions and two data tables from both the Primary School and Secondary school respondents. TS clarified the use of total numbers of respondents giving rise to less than 1% in the tables. The group discussed the importance in their analysis of giving high level analysis based on the numerical evidence but also to review as a group to give reasonable perception of what else can be understood about the perceptions of their community by the two age groups. LC explained this was important to reflect the fact that the nuanced information was valuable and important to reflect not least because it gives a more informed whole picture but also because it respects the 'voice' of young people that the NP process provides an opportunity for, which has not previously been afforded to this group in the Sid Valley.

9. Core Objectives & Policies

There wasn't sufficient time to discuss this at the meeting but the group had received a supporting document by email and copy at the meeting and we asked to refresh their understanding and use it as a guide when looking at evidence and potential policies/objectives and aspirations.

10. Meeting with Sidmouth Town Councillors – 7th March

The meeting is scheduled to start at 6:30pm and LC, DH and TS will provide an overview and update on the journey so far and next steps. It's not known how many councillors will attend. SVSG members were reminded that all are welcome and that it presents an opportunity to reinforce that the Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan is a whole community plan led by the Town Council delivered by the SVNP.

AOB

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 7th March 2017, 6:30pm to 9:30pm