

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL



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Minutes of the Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting

24th April 2017 7.30- 9.30pm

Venue STC Offices

1. Present

Graham Cooper, Louise Cole, Tim Salt, Ian McKenzie-Edwards, Peter Murphy, Claire Russell, Richard Thurlow, Michael Earthey, John Slater (NP consultant)

2. Apologies

Jon Davey, Andie Miles, Jeremy Woodward

3. Minutes of 10th April 2017

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

4. Update from the Chair

- DH welcomed John Slater (JS) and set out the structure of the meeting – which was to enable JS to report back following his review of the Q2 draft and then provide an opportunity for further discussion before agreeing next steps.

5. Q2

JS said that he had reviewed the Q2 draft document twice and the following were his observations:

- There is definitely enough material for a survey. Are all themes of equal importance? Need to decide what to include (priorities – e.g. land based issues) and what to leave out.
- It would be good to use some conclusions from Q1 to introduce questions/sections in Q2
- Balance to be struck between asking enough questions in order to elicit the right information without the document being so long that respondents choose not to complete it
- Should include some demographic questions
- Are we asking questions to elicit more information or to confirm/reject what we have already concluded based on other evidence? It was generally considered that it was the latter – questions were being asked to identify support (or otherwise) for emerging policies based on conclusions drawn from what had been said before.

- Needs a thorough edit to remove duplications and decide which themes should take ownership where current lines are blurred.
- Some questions need more preamble in order to elicit a meaningful answer.
- Some questions need editing to clarify what it is that is being referenced e.g. references to wide footpaths could refer to the town or the countryside.
- Suggested rephrasing the question about community assets - to enquire what community assets do you use, rather than what community assets do you value.
- The NP is about planning but many of the questions/objectives have no bearing on a final NP e.g. waiting times for a GP appointment and developing a tourism identity.
- Some questions are over-simplified e.g. "should we protect the Natural Environment?". A more thought provoking question would be "should we consider building in AONB if homes were needed for local needs?". Similarly with Transport – "what would it take for you not to need your car in the town centre.

A discussion followed looking at each theme in term and commenting on the specifics for that particular section. The feedback and the comments would be used by DH, LC and TS to develop the next draft which would reflect JS and Steering Group feedback.

In the case of Economic Resilience which contained many objectives that could only become Community Aspirations, JS said that he would review the questions and provide feedback directly to PM.

There was a specific discussion about the Housing question, based around the St Ives NP relating to the sale of new properties as owner occupied principle residence. There was some concern that this could have the unwanted effect of adversely affecting the rental market for residents and JS said he would clarify the situation and report back to ME.

Next Steps

Using the outputs from this meeting, and the further clarification from JS, DH, LC and TS would provide a revised draft for circulation with a view to getting Steering Group sign-off as soon as possible. In order to manage a timetable that would see the NP reporting results of Q2 into the Port Royal Scoping Study it would be necessary to have a final draft for survey design by 1st May. RT said he understood the need for structure and the timeline that was being suggested but said he considered Q2 was important to the entire project and suggested that we needed to build in some flexibility.

9. AOB

Date of next meeting – Monday 8th May 2017