

Semington Neighbourhood Planning
Minutes of Steering Group Meeting 2 November 9th 2021
1930 to 2130 Semington Village Hall



- 2.1 Those steering group members attending: Vicky Bodman VB, Emma Day ED, Sheralyn Milburn SM, Bill Scott BS, Peter Smith PS, Hugh Turnbull HT, and Ian Williamson IW. David Way (Wiltshire Council) also attended.

Peter Smith welcomed members to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

- 2.2 The minutes of meeting 1 on 29th September were approved, and the updated information set out in the minutes were noted.
- 2.3 There were no declarations of interest in relation to the agenda.
- 2.4 Siobhan Chown's resignation from the steering group was noted with regret. It was decided not to try to replace her immediately, but to consider possible new members between now and the end of the next village consultation when villagers would likely have gained additional insight into the neighbourhood plan process. All agreed that having a member in their twenties or late teens would be helpful.

The Chair updated the critical friends list and noted that not everyone had yet responded. The group agreed that members would likely be added to during the neighbourhood planning process as particular needs arose.

The revised timeline was noted as was the fact that it would likely change again.

- 2.5 The group considered the two consultant tenders that had been received. All agreed that the quality of both bids was such that either organisation could be appointed. The weighting matrix was used to help evaluate the two proposals. After detailed discussion, it was unanimously agreed to invite Place Studios to act as consultants and to set up a contract. **Action VB.**

It was agreed that PS and VB would then undertake initial discussions with the consultants in order to inform them of the steps already taken and the plans for an initial consultation in February. They will be invited to the next steering group meeting.

- 2.6 Possible budget headings and likely expenditure were explored. DW suggested that costs needed to accommodate three community consultations: [i] on vision / objectives and policy; [ii] on draft plans once created; and [iii] on the formal 6 week Regulation 14 consultation.

It was agreed to update the budget in the light of consultant costs with a view to feeding a figure (to include a contingency amount) into the parish council's budget planning. **Action BS / PS**

- 2.7 The paper, *Considering what's important to the village: initial thoughts about objectives* was discussed. DW reminded the group that a neighbourhood plan is a *land use* plan, and that the point of creating it is to create specific policies relating to land use in the parish that are not already features of the Wiltshire Local Plan. For example, policies might be written that relate to housing development, heritage, a landscape gap, travel (rights of way and the old A350), play areas and recreation, and communications. DW stressed the importance of focusing on what we *can* influence, not what we would ideally like to.

In the light of this guidance, and in recognition of the work done during lockdown and the existing 5 parish council themes, it was agreed that the first community consultation (February 2022) would need to focus on vision, objectives and policies and would present parishioners with our ideas rather than a blank slate on which they could contribute their ideas. **Action BS** (researching policies)

These ideas to be used by the consultation planning group (meeting on November 10th). **Action PS / SM / HT**

2.8 The paper *Thinking about Semington: how shall we describe the parish?* was discussed. This was part of a draft structure for the final report. It was agreed that this pen picture of the village now needed to be shared more widely before being used in the community consultations. It will be forwarded to critical friends and members of the parish council who will be asked their views on it as a description of the parish, including ideas on what might be added, or removed. **Action BS**

2.9 The dates for the next steering group meetings were agreed as 7/8 December, 4/5 January, 1/2 February (to be decided once Place Studios availability is known). **Action BS** (to book dates with Gerald Taylor.

Saturday February 12th was selected as the date for the first consultation and the village hall has been booked from 1000 to 1500.

2.10 Business for the next meeting to include:

- Meeting consultants
- Plans for the first community consultation
- Feedback on the *Thinking about Semington* paper consultation

Drafted November 11th 2021