

Semington Neighbourhood Planning
Minutes of Steering Group Meeting 3 December 7th 2021
1930 to 2130 Semington Village Hall



- 3.1 Those steering group members present: Sheralyn Milburn SM, Bill Scott BS, Peter Smith PS, and Hugh Turnbull HT. Katie Lea KL (Place Studios) also attended.

Apologies were received from Vicky Bodman.

Peter Smith welcomed members to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves to Katie Lea from Place Studios.

- 3.2 The minutes of steering group meeting 2 on 9th November were approved, and the updated information set out in the minutes was noted.
- 3.3 There were no declarations of interest in relation to the agenda.
- 3.4 PS updated the critical friends list and noted that not everyone who had been invited had responded despite follow-up calls. Currently, ten villagers have agreed to work with us.
- 3.5 Katie Lea introduced herself and Place Studios and the range of activities that they do, confirming that they continued to work with several Wiltshire towns and village on neighbourhood and community planning. There are 5 members of the Place Studios team, and we are likely to work with all of them over the neighbourhood planning period. KL said that the role that Place Studios can most effectively play in supporting our work is to help us encourage and facilitate community engagement in order to establish a sound evidence base for the plan, and that there were a range of 'toolkits' to do this. It is likely that the Place Studios team will interact with the steering group through a mix of in-person and zoom meetings.

KL noted that one of the wider contexts for our work is that Wiltshire Council's development of its Local Plan is running behind schedule with a draft Plan now only scheduled for publication in the Autumn of 2022. This means that how our neighbourhood plan will have to fit with the Local Plan will not be clear until then. Another context is that the government is still thinking about its proposals for legislation about national planning.

- 3.6 [i] There was a detailed discussion of Paper 3.2 produced by the working group on the issues of importance to the community, and the identity of community groups. This confirmed the consultations that had already taken place during the past two years prior to the decision to develop a neighbourhood plan. KL noted that this was an excellent start to data gathering.

It was agreed that the March consultation event needed to be promoted to the community as a launch event for the neighbourhood plan, and that there should be appropriate information about this sent round beforehand (parish magazine, website, Facebook, etc). People need to be able to see how their ideas have already informed the process, and to have the opportunity to provide feedback about what is important to them about where they live and about the wider parish. Being able to comment on a vision, objectives and outline policy ideas will be a crucial part of this.

In order to ensure that all this is effectively done, appropriate methods will need to be used during the event to engage everyone. Following contact with SM, PS and possibly others about a revision of the ideas in Paper 3.2, KL will bring proposals to the next steering group meeting on the aims, objectives, methods and structure of the March consultation. **Action KL**

After the March consultation, there will be the need to gather evidence from the community in order to develop appropriate policies.

[ii] Following a brief discussion of the ideal length for a vision and objectives statement, it was agreed that HT and BS will work on a draft. This will be sent to KL for comment and then (perhaps in a revised form) be circulated to the steering group for feedback. Following this, a draft will be produced for discussion at the January 5th meeting with a view to its approval for use at the March consultation event. **Action HT & BS** A draft was circulated to Place Studios on December 13th, and to the steering group on December xxx.

There was a discussion about the role of projects in neighbourhood planning. KL noted that more recent made plans tended to have projects associated with them. These tended to be concerned with matters which were not necessarily central to land use, but which were nonetheless of importance to communities. By contrast, policies *have* to be land use focused. Identifying projects can provide a focus for the use of community infrastructure levy and/or Section 106 agreement monies.

Whether we ought to allocate land for development as part of the plan will be discussed at the next meeting.

- 3.7 BS confirmed that feedback from parish councillors and critical friends has been requested (and some received) on the paper *Thinking about Semington: how shall we describe the parish?* and that more was expected before Christmas. Steering group members were also encouraged to provide further feedback. The document will be revised for approval at the next meeting prior to its use in the March community consultation. **Action All + BS** xxxxxxxx

KL recommended the [Know Your Place](#) website for maps.

- 3.8 An updated budget based on the data provided by Place Studios was confirmed. The budget will be reported to the Parish Council. **Action PS** xxxxxxxx

It is anticipated that confirmation of our 2021/22 funding from the funder, Locality, will be confirmed within the next few days. A bid for 2022/23 funding can be made when the new tax year begins in April 2022. **Confirmation was received on December 13th of the award of £1580.**

- 3.9 It was agreed to move the date of the community consultation back a number of weeks to allow more time for planning and preparation. Saturday March 5th and Saturday March 12th were suggested and Gerald Taylor will be approached about availability. **Action PS. Saturday March 5th has been confirmed and the village hall booked.**

The next steering group meeting is on January 5th 2022 (1930 in the village hall). Business will include:

- i Confirming the draft vision / objectives document
- ii. Approving the *Thinking about Semington* text
- iii Updating plans for the first community consultation in March
- iv Discussing whether the plan should include the allocation of land for development.

Drafted December 8th 2021