

Semington Neighbourhood Planning
Minutes of Steering Group Meeting 11 September 6th 2022
1930 to 2130 in the village hall / zoom



11.1

Those steering group members present: Vicky Bodman VB, Bill Scott BS, Peter Smith PS, Hugh Turnbull HT, and Ian Williamson IW. Katie Lea KL (Place Studios) attended by zoom. Apologies were received from Emma Day and Sheralyn Milburn.

11.2

There were no declarations of interest in relation to the agenda.

11.3/4

The minutes of steering group meeting 10 on August 10th were approved, and the updated information set out in the minutes was noted. It was agreed that PS and HT would attend the Semington Dog Show on September 17th to publicise the neighbourhood plan and particularly the climate change survey. All other SG members are invited to drop in (1000 to 1400).

11.5

No feedback has been received yet from AECOM about their analysis of the SHELAA sites, but it was noted that it was still relatively early days in the ~12 week process. It was agreed to write to them asking about when their walking survey of the village is likely to take place. **Action BS.**

11.6

HT updated the group on the climate change survey. He reported a slow trickle of responses with the current total standing at 31. Of those, 90% are concerned or very concerned about climate change and 71% wanted a community response. The results showed high levels of wall and roof insulation, and double glazing but little take-up of other energy saving measures like solar panels. There was strong support for new developments to have the most efficient heating and cooling, sustainable materials and construction methods, and green spaces and trees. It was agreed that more responses were needed to ensure that the results were truly representative of the parish.

In addition to the dog show, more publicity will be arranged via Facebook (**Action VB**) and the school newsletter. **Action PS** – to request action by **ED**. We agreed a notional deadline of October 9th.

11.7

Following an input from IW, there was a detailed discussion about how to map parish businesses. It was agreed that surveys would be used in order to find out about issues such as: plans for growth, the services and facilities that businesses needed from the village / parish, what help the neighbourhood plan could provide, and what the business could contribute to the village priorities e.g. green spaces, community facilities etc.

Distinctions were made between

- [i] Semington-based businesses with a physical location in the village (eg, the Somerset Arms, the Independent learning centre, farms, etc),
- [ii] Semington-based businesses run from home, and
- [iii] people working from home for businesses that are not Semington-based.

It was acknowledged that much more was known about [i] than about [ii], and even less was known about [iii]; and that most of the data about [ii] and [iii] was still anecdotal. The definition of business for the survey purposes included the not-for profit sector.

It was agreed that surveys of [i] would be carried out by visiting the enterprises with the survey. For [ii] and [iii] it was agreed to have an insert in the forthcoming parish magazine to try to reach everyone in those

categories. In addition, there will be an internet map search to what businesses are visible. **Action:[i] PS/VB, and [ii] and [iii] IW/HT, Internet search PS**

A draft survey will now be developed [**Action IW/HT**] and circulated for return comment by September 13th. Following this the survey will be prepared as a magazine insert. **Action HT/PS.**

11.8

KL noted that the re-drafted Green Space report was good work in progress, noting that each site now needed to be reviewed systematically. In the discussion that followed it was agreed to drop one of the putative sites (owing to an unconvincing case) and it was agreed that two of the sites should be kept in the draft at the moment though that case for them was likely only to become compelling in the future. It was also agreed not to include all the land bordering the brook in the eastern part of the parish east of the A350, but to look at this again when considering landscape and rights of way related projects. All such sites were likely to present good project opportunities.

The draft document will now be updated, and the exact physical location of each site will be identified on a map and forwarded to KL. **Action BS** KL will then review the document in time for consideration at the next meeting. **Action KL**

11.9

It is expected that there will be 3 bids for the landscape assessment work (deadline September 12th). These will be collated by Place Studios and forwarded to PS with recommendations about the quality of each bid. Bids will be judged on experience, cost and timings. **Action KL**, and PS to share with the SG. Following appointment, the consultant will be asked to deliver a draft report by the end of November.

KL recommended that we write to Locality to clarify how spending decisions have changed recently to ensure that what we are doing is exactly in line with our agreed published timetable. **Action KL / VB.**

11.10

Reports on village walksabout in Littleton and Little Marsh were forwarded to KL. A report on the farms to the east of the A350 will now follow. **Action PS**

On receipt of these, Place Studios will shape the parish character statement for discussion at the next meeting. **Action KL / VT**

11.11

[i] The next steering group meeting will be on Tuesday October 11th in the Village Hall social club. The first part will be a meeting with the new landscape consultant.

[ii] Business for the 12th meeting to include updates on:

- AECOM
- Climate change survey
- Green spaces
- Business survey
- Landscape assessment
- Parish Character statement

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Drafted September 7th 2022
Circulated