

Semington Neighbourhood Planning
Minutes of Steering Group Meeting 12 October 11th 2022
1930 to 2130 in the village hall / zoom



12.1

Those steering group members present: Vicky Bodman VB, Bill Scott BS, Peter Smith PS (remotely), Hugh Turnbull HT, and Ian Williamson IW (up to item 10). Vaughan Thompson (Place Studios) attended. Fiona Sharman FS was present for items 1 to 5. Apologies were received from Emma Day, Sheralyn Milburn and Katie Lee.

12.2

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

12.3/4

The minutes of steering group meeting 11 on September 6th were approved, and the updated information set out in the minutes was noted including that Locality have approved the change of activities.

12.5

FS made a presentation about the Semington landscape and visual appraisal which she will be carrying out. This will look at the village settlements, their relationship with the wider parish and the parish's relation to adjacent areas. FS stressed that in a rural setting such as Semington, landscape considerations are critical for decisions made about development. The purpose of the study is to identify areas of sensitivity that would be affected by development, particularly at the SHELAA sites, to establish a justification for any green gap policies, and also help to inform decisions regarding identification of Local Green Space. The report will be delivered in late November to coincide with AECOM's report. It was noted that the final form of the character statement will be very dependent on this report. It was agreed that all iterations to green space and character documents would be copied to FS. **Action BS**

12.6

Tim Fearn and Niamh McDevitt from AECOM will come to the village on October 14th at around 0930 and will be visiting all the SHELAA sites. It was agreed that PS, VB and BS, would accompany them on their visit. An itinerary will be drawn up. Lunch will be in the pub. **Action BS** to arrange.

12.7

HT updated the group on the climate change survey. He reported a slow trickle of responses with the current total standing at 55. Of those, 90% are concerned or very concerned about climate change and 78% wanted a community response. The results continue to show 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. There had been no change to the nature of these findings over the last month.

It was agreed that, although the response rate was on the low side, active canvassing of further responses would cease, save where good opportunities arise in the future. It was agreed to post a report of findings on the village website and use Facebook to draw these to the attention of the village, inviting responses and observations. **Action HT VB**

The outcomes of the survey will contribute to the development of housing development policies.

12.8

There was a discussion of proposals in Paper 12.2 to map parish businesses. The list of businesses identified was slightly edited. It was agreed to sample business views by a phone survey with the possibility of follow-up visits to explore issues further. A couple of questions were added. Sampling arrangements will be made and all members asked to contribute. **Action PS**.

12.9

The re-drafted Green Space report (Paper 12.3) from Place Studios was discussed. It was agreed that sites 9 and 11 would be removed from the list. The sites identified as 5a and 5b would not be removed at this point but would be subject to further discussions between VT and KL to see whether the significance of verges in the village settlements could be emphasized, perhaps in the character statement. Two more significant verges were identified: the Jubilee Wood, and the 10 oak trees across from the crematorium. **Action VT**

Place Studios will provide feedback on those sites where further detail is required to justify designation.

Action KL

12.10

The draft Parish Character statement (Paper 12.4) was discussed. It was agreed that this was a good start to a crucial document which will be a building block to sound policies. The document will be updated up to Regulation 14. VT asked for feedback on issues such as: the structure, what is missing, are the character areas appropriate, are any sub-divisions ok, and can the descriptors be improved. **Action HT BS then All.**

Initial feedback will be provided in time for Place Studios to generate an iteration of the paper for the November meeting.

12.11

It was decided to carry out a heritage assets survey of the parish and to send a list of non-designated heritage assets (excluding listed structures), for reporting to Place Studios who will bring proposals to the December Steering Group meeting. **Action PS (BS JH).**

12.12

It was noted that the parish council has now set up a working group to consider how to spend its community infrastructure levy monies. In considering how this process ought to interact with the neighbourhood plan, VT stressed that sufficient CIL monies should be ring-fenced to ensure that NP policies and projects can be appropriately funded.

12.13

[i] The next steering group meeting will be on Tuesday November 8th in the Village Hall social club.

[ii] Business for the 13th steering group meeting on November 8th will include updates on:

- AECOM update
- Business survey update
- Landscape assessment update
- Parish Character statement update
- Heritage survey update

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