

## Semington Neighbourhood Planning

Minutes of Steering Group Meeting 14 December 13<sup>th</sup> 2022

1930 to 2130 by zoom



### 14.1

Those steering group members present: Vicky Bodman VB (Chair), Bill Scott BS, and Katie Lea (Place Studios). Apologies were received from Emma Day, Sheralyn Milburn, Peter Smith and Hugh Turnbull.

### 14.2

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

### 14.3/4

The minutes of steering group meeting 13 on November 8<sup>th</sup> were approved, and the updated information set out in the minutes was noted. Suggestions for revisions to the Introduction to the neighbourhood plan will be sent to KL prior to circulation to critical friends for comment. **Action BS**

The government's latest proposed planning reforms were noted. As the final nature of these remains opaque, and the timescale of any implementation equally so, it is not clear whether or how they will affect either the Semington plan or the Wiltshire Local Plan review. It was clear, however, that the proposals strengthen the role of neighbourhood planning within the local planning process.

### 14.5

The draft AECOM report was discussed and a number of points were agreed for feedback to the authors for their consideration prior to the report's finalization. These pointed to a number of factual inaccuracies related to planning applications and the designation of local PRoWs.

They also pointed to a need for text to be added to explain that site constraints are likely to result in lower maximum numbers for housing development than initially anticipated by developers because of the need to be sensitive to issues such as heritage assets and wider landscape considerations. Finally, the comments queried whether the evaluation of constraints had been carried out consistently across sites.

The comments will be forwarded to AECOM and their final report considered at SG meeting 15 on January 15<sup>th</sup>. **Action BS**

### 14.6

The draft Landscape Assessment report was welcomed as a valuable professionally-articulated perspective on landscape sensitivities within the parish. It was noted that the draft conclusions broadly agreed with the views of the parish council and neighbourhood planning steering group in relation to landscape and green space, and also with the key views documentation already produced. There was also good agreement with the draft AECOM report. It was agreed to contact the author to discuss what was now needed to produce the final report. **Action KL**.

### 14.7

The progress made in surveying parish businesses was noted and it was decided to continue this into the new year **Action All** with a deadline for reporting in time for the next SG meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>. **Action HT**.

It was decided not to continue the working from home survey but to accept the existing results and any more that are submitted.

### 14.8

BS and KL reported on communications with landowners about Green Space provision. All the owners of the significant parcels of land had been identified and written to apart from the Wessex Close play area whose ownership remains unclear. The ownership and status of the small pieces of land in the village remains unclear but are likely to be 'adopted highways'. As such, these are not normally available for designation as green space, but it was thought important to continue to include the Ragged Smock and the triangle in the plan as

these are key pieces of village land. **KL** will discuss this with DW. **BS** will continue to track down the owners of the Wessex Close play area.

**14.9**

The updates to the draft Parish Character statement by Place Studios were accepted. One picture is missing. **Action BS.**

Place Studios will now work on the Conclusion (p. 18) and present it for the SG meeting in February. **Action KL / VT.**

**14.10**

VB updated our position with Locality grants and it was agreed to forward a report to Locality and a further application before Christmas. **Actions VB.**

14.11

The date of the next steering group meeting was confirmed as January 17<sup>th</sup> . Business to include:

- the final AECOM report
- the final landscape report
- green space update
- business survey update
- a final review of the Plan Introduction
- .....

*Drafted December 14<sup>th</sup> 2022*