

Semington Neighbourhood Planning

Minutes of Steering Group Meeting 23 on September 12th 2023

1930 to 2130 Village Hall social club and by zoom



23.1

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

23.2

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

23.3/4

The minutes of steering group meeting 22 on August 23rd were approved, with a number of typographical issues needing to be fixed. **Action BS – completed**

PS noted that Locality funding for 23/24 has been secured; VB was thanked for her work on this.

23.5

The outcome of Wiltshire Council's draft neighbourhood plan consultation with external stakeholders was received. The statutory consultees agreed that a full SAE is required. Reports to this effect have been received was noted. As a result, there is likely to be a lengthy delay before we can progress to Reg 14 consultation. This might be as long as 12 weeks but could be shorted if a narrow focus was deemed appropriate.

23.6

The Place Studio's paper on the allocation of sites and deciding what to recommend to the parish council meeting on September 19th was discussed at some length, and the comments from DW at Wiltshire Council considered. This explored whether it would be advantageous to allocate an alternative piece of village land for housing rather than the land already allocated, and whether they might, to advantage, both be identified. After consideration of the pros and cons of the alternative approach, including an analysis of AECOM's original report on the land, it was decided **not** to change the site allocation decision already supported by the Parish Council.

There were four reasons for this. The first was that, as it would mean re-running the village consultation and the Wiltshire Council's screening process, there would be a very extensive delay in getting to Reg 14. The second was that the land only had an Amber AECOM designation (compared to a Green for the land previously identified). The third is that there is considerable uncertainty over the planning status of the alternative piece of land. The fourth was that compelling arguments were expressed that the village community, if consulted, would prefer the original allocation.

The AECOM SAE process is to be re-started **Action KL – completed**, and DW to be informed **Action BS – completed**.

BS will attend a scoping meeting with AECOM (September 18th) and will ask for an early meeting with the lead consultant once appointed and seek a clear time scale on when we can expect that to be. **Action BS – completed**.

23.7

The following were noted:

- Wiltshire Council's local plan will be open for consultation from September 27th to November 22nd
- There was nothing to report on the NPPF or the passage of the Leveling Up Bill through parliament and Michelle Donelan would be asked for an update. **Action BS – completed (no response yet)**.
- There were no Wiltshire Council planning decisions to note.
- KL will forward details of the Wiltshire Association of Local Neighbourhood Plans – **completed**

23.8

The next meeting is on November 14th 1930 in the social club. The main business will relate to developments outlined in item 23.5 (above). The October meeting room booking will be cancelled.

Action BS – completed.

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Drafted September 15th 2023