

Notes of the NDP meeting held Tuesday 18th June 2019 at The Memorial Hall , commencing 14.00hrs

Those attending :-

Barry Turner(BT) (Secretary and Chair), Alan Coles(AC) ,Keith Sullivan (KS), Dylan Griffiths(DG), Chris Jennings(CJ) , Liz Nichols (LN)and Peter Everton (PE)

Apologies received from / minutes to be sent to, Liz Beth (LB), Ben Guzman(BG), Ann Martin(AM), Andy McGrath.(AMcG)

Declarations of Interest . No declarations were made based on the content of the Agenda.

No members of the public were in attendance.

The minutes of the meeting held 19th March 2019 were agreed .

2019/117 Sea Determination . Concern was expressed regarding the time being by SGC to come back to the Working Group(WG) with a definitive response . The draft plan was submitted and receipt acknowledged 22nd February 2019 . On the 23rd March SGC advised that the Statement of Determination should be available to the WG by early May. Due to the European Elections and Purdah this was not achieved. On the 10th May SGC advised that it would now possibly be late May. On 6th June SGC advised that they had now received feedback from Natural and Historic England .

2019/117A Historic England's (HE) stance is that a SEA is required. This is possibly due to the fact that they are unaware of the work done following our approach to them in October regarding the Toot last year . They seem to think we have not taken their advice but in effect what they told us then was that it was *"for your community to determine the heritage significance of the Toot and determine how that might be affected by the development you are exploring on the adjacent land."* They went on to say *"The conservation team at South Gloucestershire Council, possibly via the contact details below, can advise on the best approach"*. We followed this advice and the issue as the record shows was further discussed with SGC in January 2019 , the outcome of this was that two sites were removed from the plan with three sites remaining .The dialogue with Historic England has been through SGC, our Liaison Officer wants to go back to them to clarify a few points which he believes may mitigate the need for a SEA. The Heritage and other advice we have already been given by SGC and acted upon has some weight . The Officer concerned feels that Historic England may accept input from SGC Heritage Specialists whose advice helped to inform the outcomes in Version 3 of the plan . A suggested solution to mitigate Historic England's concern therefore may be to collate and publish some of the conclusions made by SGC Heritage Specialists. He will speak to the SGC Heritage Specialists and ask if they can collate their comments which can then be used as supporting evidence to 'plug the gap' currently outlined by Historic England. This should give them the confidence that proper consideration of all potential heritage harm has been considered and the mitigations proposed are based on informed evidence. Detailed(bespoke) policies for the specific sites still need to be written when we know which sites will go forward.

This is felt to be a constructive way forward . The need for a SEA needs to be thoroughly tested particularly considering the very modest nature of proposed developments and the feedback from the community consultation events we have held.

2019/117B Natural England is suggesting Neighbourhood Plan should be consistent with the Joint Spatial Plan Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA), Sustainability Assessment (SA) and SEA., SGC' HRA expert, will go back to them for some clarification as it is unclear if they are asking for a separate SEA to be undertaken consistent with the JSP or if they believe it is possible to use the existing evidence undertaken for the JSP.

Again , this seems a constructive way forward . In broad terms it was always intended that the ONDP would reflect the relevant documents prepared for the local plan but without duplication wherever possible . The aim of SEA is to ensure that wider environmental consideration on the community and other receptors is undertaken. The current SGC documents in force cover the Policies Sites and Places Development Plan, although with the adoption of the New Local Plan they will be superseded.

2019/117C The Environment Agency have not formally responded . SGC have requested a response to confirm if they do, or do not, wish to comment with a deadline of 12th June 2019. As of the 18th June there has been no response .

2019/117D Preparation of the Plan commenced in October 2016, it was never envisaged that it would still be ongoing almost 3 years later. Contrary to what we were advised prior to commencement of the plan the process has been longwinded and protracted . This in part is because it is a learning process both for us and for SGC. The Working Group have become frustrated particularly since submitting the regulation 14 draft for the SEA determination although the SEA has been an issue from day one. Given the very modest development proposals that are now contained within the draft plan and the community engagement feedback from a number of events it is felt that the plan reflects the wishes of the community and that due diligence has been exercised . It is accepted that if the plan was of a more revolutionary nature a SEA could be important particularly to defend the plan should there be challenge but it is not .

It was agreed that having invested so much time in getting the plan to this stage it would not be sensible to abort as a considerable amount of resources both time and financial have been expended . With the benefit of hindsight it is doubtful whether we would embark on it if we were starting now and with the benefit of hindsight. If asked to advise other small Parish Council the advice would be to think hard about what they would be getting in to .

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to SGC expressing the above sentiments .

There was no other business to discuss.

Next meeting scheduled for the 16th July 2019 Agenda to follow if there is anything substantive to discuss