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**Email:** np@uptonbychester.org.uk

**MINUTES OF NDP STEERING GROUP MEETING**

**Monday 25th 2018, 7.30 pm at The Pavilion, Wealstone Lane**

**Present:** David Evans, Cllr Jean Evans (Chair), Cllr Jill Houlbrook, Alan Lingard, Cllr Alison Bennion, Mike Worden, John Every.

1. **APOLOGIES for ABSENCE:** Cllr Adrian Walmsley, Sue Stanley
2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING –** approved (note the action point from note 7 remains outstanding and will be concluded before the next SG meeting – **action AL**)

Jean welcomed John Every to the meeting who provided a brief background by way of introduction.
3. **UPDATES ON WORKING GROUPS**
	1. Transport
	Jill questioned the use of the language we use and in particular “will be supported”. The concern being that we might be adopting too broad a scope with a concern that we might push ourselves into a corner with nowhere to go.
	Mike added that the use of such terminology was in fact setting out what we want to do so we need to be thoughtful.
	Agreed it might be better to use something like “within all new developments there should be provision for X,Y,Z” etc.
	-(will take further advice on this (Richard Thresh) as there was a feeling that we had been steered towards the word “supported”).
	Jean told us about her meeting with Catherine Murgatroyd – CM will help us and will not let us position matters in an inappropriate manner.
	There was some uncertainty as to what arrangement we had with Richard Thresh and AL undertook to recover Adrian’s email setting out what this is – **action AL**.
	Jean suggested that AL/SS arrange a meeting with RT although we need to be sure as to what we have to date before committing – **action AL/SS**.
	Mike reminded us of the need to concentrate on gathering evidence when seeking departure from established standards – in essence what is our justification.
	David interjected saying that we had to get thoughts into a draft policy as a starting point after discussions as to what we wanted to do. Once agreed we should start to gather supporting evidence.

	AL introduced the topic of cycling. If we are to reduce our reliance on the car how can we promote alternative forms of transport such as walking and cycling?
	It was noted the COCH had included within their travel to work paper (albeit somewhat dated now) that they were to have approached CWaC to investigate how routes around the hospital could be prioritised for cycle users. Jill reported that she was not aware of any information emerging from this.
	Mike said that there was nothing wrong in having and ambition to create some key routes across Upton and marking them prominently so that cyclists take priority, but ultimately this would need a change in highways law.

	Jean reminded us of the need to keep engaged in this part of the project. Sue had put forward some initial thoughts and we were all encouraged to respond to her paper rather than treat as reading material **action all**.
	2. Housing
	Jean reported on her meeting with Laura Corlett (Your Housing). LC is seen as a useful channel for communications (through the eyes of social housing).
	Jean also reported that from her meeting with Catherine M, a key issue is the need to evidence what types of housing development should be contained in our policy.
	What is the housing situation in Upton as far as demand for housing types? Why do people want to come and live in Upton?
	Alan said he would arrange a meeting with an estate/letting agent to try to glean more information **action AL**.
	David mentioned the need for a housing needs survey, but we should be careful what we wish for in that we don’t want to find ourselves conflicted between what such a survey might recommend and what the residents want.
	David suggested we put down a marker for the treatment of any windfall sites given that the only land available for development appears to be around St Columba’s church and, if it were to become available, Dale Camp. Regarding Dale Camp it was noted that the MOD might want a market price for the site which precludes much social housing use.
	3. Physical character
	David told us he is working on what the Physical Character of Upton is, he is still trying to meet Phil Pearn to gather more info.
	Mentioned that to a degree PC and green spaces go hand in hand.
	The Golf Club was raised in so far as whether the land could be classified as green space in the event that the club were to move and seek PP for development. Mike thought we might want to consider such an insertion given that any large-scale development would disturb the physical character of Upton.
	Anne & Vernon Jones had previously provided a list of what they considered to be important features of Upton. Jean suggested that we might post up a map of the parish and ask people to pin to it what they thought important.
	Mike suggested we model our policy based on the feedback received so far indicating that people want to keep things as they are.
	4. **Green Spaces** – see above.
4. **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**Discussion took place about the use of banners promoting the NDP to be located at various strategic points. The main issue was whether, if we were to do so, were we being contradictory when challenging local business posting similar items (the sunbeds came to mind). Mike told us that as long as they were used on a purely temporary basis only, thereby not violating planning laws, there should be no grounds for objection.
In this context, Jean held the view that we should adopt a more aggressive posture on promotion of the NDP and this was agreed by the group.

Facebook – AL reported that our page has 31 likes and had 177 views (most of these were around the date of Uptonfest, no doubt as a result of the “cake” promotion).
It was agreed that we should spend £25 on the boost of a single post (we should create a suitable post to entice recipients to either respond to or like the post) **action AL/SS**.
After the boost post we should continue to make regular contributions to our page, based on policy headings to keep up the momentum.
Jill asked that we restrict our page so that only admin could post to it. She is concerned that some people might used this as a means of promoting their own agenda. **Action SS**
5. **TIMELINE & CWAC SUPPORT**

It was agreed that the present date targeted for referendum (May 2019) was now too tight and the group agreed that we should aim for around October 2019. This will mean that we position ourselves to have polices completed by October this year to give adequate time for consultation and process.

1. **DATE & TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**  7.30pm Monday 30th July **(note change from 23rd)**