

South Molton Neighbourhood Plan – Draft Minutes of Steering Group Meeting held 11th

July

Chair – Matthew Bushell

Vice – Chair – Marc Cornelius

Present: Maria Bailey (Advising Consultant), Steven Edwards, Marc Cornelius (Town Councillor), Paula Hagley, Derrica Hodgson, Tom Sparkes (Citizen), Neil Kingdom, Jane Tomlin (Citizen), Peter Bishop, Matthew Bushell (Town Councillor), David Worden (District and Town Councillor), Jean Foster and Doug Urquhart.

Apologies: Peter Bright, Lyn Winter, Richard Westcott, Linda and Peter Falkner.

Introduction

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting table and did not recap on where we are in the process as there were no new faces around the table. All agreed that other sub group members just be invited to attend.

Agree notes from last meeting

Notes agreed with no further amendments. Marc made the group aware that the Town Council were now part of the public sector mapping agreement so that this system could be used for Neighbourhood Plan mapping/data.

Finalised Vision

‘We aim to socially, culturally and environmentally enhance our community so that it becomes a flourishing, inclusive friendly Town.’

All agreed.

Final Sub-group objectives

Appendix 1 - Employment.

It was agreed that Ellen Vernon would be approached to assist the Sub Group.

Open Space and leisure.

Neil read out 2 objectives:

To protect, promote and enhance open and green spaces

To protect, promote and enhance facilities and amenities to meet sporting needs.

Remit is to map and plan both existing and future areas.

Neil made the Group aware that consultation is being undertaken on the North Devon Playing Pitch Strategy and that he will respond on behalf of the Group as the local sports representative. Consultation ends 20th July.

Neil was also volunteered to respond to the North Devon Link Road consultation covering:

The need to retain and improve existing bridleways

The need for a crossing at Hacche lane

The need for another access to the Tarka Trail.

Neil will liaise on a draft with the Chairman.

Housing and associated parking

Objectives still being worked on but suggestions put forward:

Housing should be fit for purpose particularly in terms of size and level of amenity space.

Housing should be built in accordance with local characteristics

There should be adequate parking per dwelling taking into account the specific needs and nature of the town

Affordable housing should be provided to meet local needs.

Steven Edwards was asked to be part of the sub group given his development knowledge.

Appendix 2 - Arts & Heritage and Health & Wellbeing

No sub group member was present at the time of discussion so some queries raised requiring clarification. What is meant by support services and why was infrastructure not included?

Appendix 3 – Traffic

Sub-committee has not met as yet but will do shortly.

Neil raised the issue of the local transport businesses being catered for.

Town Centres

Matt advised that again this would be a mapping exercise to zone areas for uses.

Questions

MBP to provide an update of Plan activity to go into the next Town Council newsletter.

Date of next meeting/s

14th August

5th September

Appendix 1 – Employment objective desires

Brief outline of Employment and Business desires for South Molton.

1. Promote the town as a good place to work or set up a business.
2. Encourage employers to take on apprentices and recruit locally.
3. Make sure businesses and places of education are aware of each other's requirements, to create a locally sourced workforce.
4. Treat employment and business holistically, promoting not only the town centre but also Pathfields and other business enterprises on the outskirts of town.
5. Make South Molton a place where entrepreneurship is encouraged and welcome.
6. Encourage larger employers to open enterprises in South Molton.
7. Encourage higher skilled and higher paid industries into our area.

Appendix 2 – Arts & Heritage and Health & Wellbeing desires

To update everyone:

Peter and I met and discussed the theme objectives and came up with two, because we felt that Arts and heritage were not the only themes that impacted on wellbeing.

Arts and Heritage - we aim to protect and strengthen the area of South Molton as a centre for creative and cultural growth.

Health and Wellbeing- we aim to maintain and improve services to insure that people in South Molton can access support and support each other to be healthier and happier.

We did not think infrastructure was a comfortable fit with this theme.

These theme objectives were also discussed and agreed with Jane.

Appendix 3 – Traffic

***To make a welcoming environment that is easy to navigate, quiet, clean and stress free.
An experience that people will want to repeat.***

Parking and Traffic Management Suggested activities that could lead to the objective:

- The pedestrian environment could be considered poor due to narrow pavements and the roads are traffic-dominated with low pedestrian priority.
- The town centre could be the heart of the community, it could be made into a safer place for pedestrians to get around.
- Perhaps we could work closely with NDDC to provide a District council traffic survey
- We could do a Walking assessment of parking issues ourselves
- Do we have access to plans that we could mark up with proposed improvements?
- Are all the roads owned by the same authority? If not could we organise coordinated action to achieve each authority “buy in” to our suggested improvements.
- Are there any parts of the town we can identify as “high priority for improvements”?
- Perhaps we could create plans that will deter vehicles using Broad Street as a through route.
- Any advantage to one way systems
- Any advantage to pedestrianising
- Well sign posted access routes to the town center for pedestrians and the disabled.
- Could the town centre parking (Broad St.) be for disabled drivers only
- We could have revised on street parking arrangements with locals having the opportunity to purchase 2 permits. One for their car and one for visitors, tradesmen etc. The visitor pass could be at a lower charge than the house owners permit.
- On street electric car charging points.
- Speed reduction measures.
- Any chance of using council resources (inc. NDDC) if they could help us achieve our desired outcome?
- After we complete working on our suggested improvements, they could be presented at a public exhibition and online consultation.