

South Molton Neighbourhood Plan – Draft Minutes of Steering Group Meeting held 14th

August

Chair – Matthew Bushell

Vice – Chair – Marc Cornelius

Present: Amy Littlejohns (Advising Consultant), Steven Edwards, Paula Hagley, Tom Sparkes (Citizen), Neil Kingdon, Lyn Winter, Jane Tomlin (Citizen), Peter Bright, Matthew Bushell (Town Councillor), David Worden (District and Town Councillor).

Apologies: Peter Bishop, Marc Cornelius, Maria Bailey, Derrica Hodgson, Jean Foster, Doug Urquhart and 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.

Agree notes from last meeting

Lyn Winter asked for her objectives to be added to last meeting notes, which Amy agreed to do. Apart from that, the notes were agreed with no further amendments.

Update on timetable

Amy stressed that we were falling behind on the timetable. She also mentioned that this is a tight schedule for the amount of work involved. Steven Edwards raised the priority of being eligible to receive CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) contributions. He suggested it would be better to pick a focus instead of undertaking so many elements in the first instance – Neil Kingdon supported this.

All agreed on putting the timetable back a month. Amy agreed to revise the timetable and circulate before next meeting. Also, Amy was asked to find out about the Basic Conditions stage on the timetable, to which she stated that she would find out and circulate.

Finalisation of objectives

Amy discussed the importance of valid evidence to support each of the subgroup's objectives and future policies. It was raised that the Neighbourhood Plan must positively align in the emerging Local Plan, and that using the same evidence would be beneficial if it is available. Any evidence that is not available must be created.

Housing and Associated Parking – Marc Cornelius, Matt Bushell

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

Parking and Traffic Management – Tom Sparkes with support from Marc Cornelius, Matt Bushell and David Worden

Tom Sparkes circulated Traffic Management and Parking objective document. Each section was discussed. Key points included; town area children play area safety, charging points, residential permits, signage, loading bays near the pannier market and speed limit change. Chair raised that 'half size sheep and some lambs' point should be moved to the heritage subgroup- this was support by everyone.

Tom was advised to contact highways (Paul Young) to help with their subgroup.

Employment and Business – Peter Bright

Peter Bright stated we need to try and attract high tech jobs in the area, but also to provide a mixture of premises to allow locals to expand and new entrepreneurs to start up. He highlighted the importance of the link road and that it is vital to ensure that the road is adequate. He raised that most people commute into South Molton to work. Peter stated he will meet up with companies (such as Mole Valley) to assist him with evidence.

In terms of business relocation, good house standards are required to help attract employers/employees to move to South Molton.

Community (Incorporating Arts, Heritage, Health, Well Being, Infrastructure) – Lyn Winter and Jane Tomlin

Clarified the use of infrastructure in the context of community. Chair asked for them to write something for the art destination meeting as both Jane and Lyn were not able to attend. It is important that they both are linked.

Open Space and leisure – Neil Kingdon and Marc Cornelius

Neil circulated objectives and aspirations. He went through each point and discussed what they planning to illustrate on a map. He was going to send the plan to Tom. He discussed how long term it would be good to connect to the Tarka Trail. He mentioned that he was going to have a meeting with Jean Foster about the Wetlands project.

Neil was asked to circulate open space objectives, link road improvement consultation and playing pitch strategy.

Town Centre/Central Area – Tom Sparkes, Peter Bright and Matt Bushell

Matt and Tom are working on mapping. Peter has offered to assist.

Next step policy formation

This was discussed under 'update on timetable' and 'finalisation of objectives'. Amy did reiterate that the policies are derived from the objectives and therefore these must be finalised first.

Questions

Questions were answered intermittently throughout the meeting. Tom raised a question in relation to parking spaces for flats in the centre. Both planning and legal advice have been requested in relation to this.

Date of next meeting/s

5th September at 6.45pm

2nd October at 6.45pm