

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

NDP Working Party, Wednesday 21 November 2028

1 Present:

Councillors Harvey, Howells, Morris, Shields (chair) and Whattler. Nicola Forde, Beverley Kinnaird, Paul Kinnaird, Gwythian Prins, Maria Mackness and Christine Tustin (minute taker).

Apologies received from Ian James and John Vickerman.

Cllr Harvey advised that Paul Neep who had been involved with the original design document, David Penney, technical director of the Canal Trust and Roger Allsopp had all stated that they were prepared to help. She had their contact details which would be added to the circulation list.

Action: Cllr Harvey to provide contact details to the office. Office to include these individuals in the NDP WP circulation list and also those for Maria Mackness.

2 Aims

Cllr Shields summarised the current position. The Examiner had recommended deleting 8 policies from the Plan because they were either not appropriate or not strong enough to withstand a legal challenge from developers. After seeking advice from Sam Banks at Herefordshire Council, the options had been to withdraw the plan, go back to Reg 14 stage, rework, re-consult and re-submit for examination, or accept the recommendations, aim to get the Plan adopted and then work updating and strengthening it. Given the length of time needed for the first option, Full Council had decided to accept the recommendations and after adoption work to strengthen the Plan.

The following areas that needed work were noted:

- the settlement boundary;
- employment land;
- green infrastructure corridor;
- health facilities;
- land for sports facilities;
- design guide and its incorporation in the actual Plan;
- review all policies removed ;
- identify and review areas that were protected up until 2015 on the settlement boundary map;
- the green buffer requested between Wellington Heath and similar at Parkway;
- comments made under Reg 14 and 16 consultations;
- All relevant HC strategy documents;
- new version of national planning framework;
- review whether landscape impact assessment was necessary;
- review secondary shopping areas, in particular Lawnside Road;
- density and infill development ref town centre.

Beverley Kinnaird asked that the quality of housing with regard to energy efficiency be emphasised as this was not the case currently.

Nicola Forde noted that the wider countryside gets little mention; particularly with regard to protection of trees and hedgerows.

Cllr Shields said that she wished to invite Sam Banks to join our next meeting to go through the process with the working party. Cllr Harvey added that there were a number of useful advice papers on HC's website. She also reported that Roland Close is leaving Herefordshire Council and might be available for consultancy work at relatively short notice. She agreed to keep in contact with him.

Action: The bullet points above to form the basic structure of the working party's work going forward. Cllr Shields to invite Sam Banks to the next meeting.

3 Way Forward

Cllr Shields referred to the way in which the original working party had operated, suggesting that the group should separate into sub groups to work on the different areas. They could then meet at times which worked best for them and report back to the main working party meetings. She suggested that members consider which areas they would wish to work on and start doing some research in those areas in readiness for the next meeting.

Gwythian Prins (representing Ledbury Civic Society) stressed that the nature of the threat should not be underestimated. LDCS felt that the settlement boundary was in a category of its own and they would be happy to work on it. Cllr Shields said that would be much appreciated.

Cllr Shields asked if the non-councillor members would be prepared to share their e-mails within the group, specifically for NDP purposes. This would make it easier to share information amongst the group. If so she asked them to confirm this by e-mail to the office.

Action: All to consider areas of preference to work on and start research as appropriate. Non-council members, if agreeable, formally notify the office that their contact details may be shared with the NDP WP members specifically for NDP purposes. The office to ensure that only the addresses of those who have given permission are included in the open address list.

4 Planning for consultation event on 1 December 2018

The immediate priority was the consultation on 1 December and the referendum on the 6th. It was confirmed that 51% of the votes cast were needed.

Publicity so far:

A first poster had been circulated around the town; an article had been submitted to the *Focus* due to be published at the end of November; an item had been submitted for the Eastnor School Parents' newsletter and if accepted would also be submitted to the newsletters of Ledbury Primary and John Masefield. A press release had been submitted to the Ledbury Reporter but not printed.

Paul Kinnaird offered to include the NDP message in a leaflet drop he was planning in connection with Gladman 2. This was accepted. He also offered to hand out flyers on the morning of 1st Dec to encourage people to come into the Drop-in/Exhibition at the Council Offices.

There was discussion on using slightly different messages in a range of posters for different sections of the community, all with the same strapline. (ie doctors' surgeries, schools, sports facilities, library, tourist information centre.) Messages might reference the need to allocate land for sports, need for starter homes, elderly home etc.

Strap lines were discussed such as 'Vote Yes on 6 December' and 'Homes for people in Ledbury, not profits for developers'. What is the LDP – Why is it important? –how you can vote...

Cllr Shields asked that any wording ideas be sent to her as soon as possible.

Venues in which to distribute information were discussed and included pubs, newsagents, supermarkets, surgeries, schools, elderly homes, sheltered housing, paid advertising in the Ledbury Reporter, Radio Hereford news bulletins.

The use of e-mail circulation lists was also discussed and some members identified lists which they could use.

Cllr Shields reminded the meeting that there were only 2 weeks to the referendum date.

The discussion then moved on to the drop-in exhibition on 1st Dec. Cllr Shields confirmed that this would now run between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. because of a wedding booked into the room in the afternoon. The information boards previously used in the exercise were reviewed and some were identified for use on the 1st.

Cllrs Morris, Shields and Whattler and Nicola Forde agreed to be available at the drop-in/exhibition on the 1st. Paul Kinnaird will distribute flyers in the High Street, encouraging people to call in.

Action: Any 'copy' ideas to be submitted to Cllr Shields who will liaise with the office on preparation, publishing etc. Volunteers to be at the offices for 10 a.m. on the 1st.

Date of Next Meeting

To be advised as soon as Cllr Shields had a date from Sam Banks.