

# DYMOCK PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Party Meeting Held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7:30pm in Dymock Parish Hall Committee Room

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### Present:

Councillors: None

Group Terry Ball (Chairman), Ann Vizer, Richard Simkin, Jackie Tweedale, Dee Chamberlain,

Members: John Hodgson, Mark Cox, Bob May, Chris May

In attendance: Arin Spencer (Parish Clerk), Cllr Phillip Howells (Mayor of Ledbury and Chairman of Ledbury NDP Working Group)

### 1. Apologies for absence

Noted apologies for absence from Cllr Andrew Perry, Cllr Richard Dunnett, Kevin Tasker, Wendy Tasker, Mike Townsend, Kate Bough (GRCC), Barbara Pond (GRCC)

### 2. Minutes

Corrections:

6.2.1 Special Areas should be Special Places

Members responsible for Traffic and Road Safety are Terry Ball and Bob May, not Dee Chamberlain and John Hodgson.

Approved the minutes (with the above corrections) of the NDP Working Party meeting held on 20 January 2020 as a correct record.

### 3. Future transport, cycle and footpath links between Dymock and Ledbury

Cllr Phillip Howells discussed ways in which both NDP groups could achieve joined up thinking on transport, cycle and footpath links between Dymock and Ledbury.

The Ledbury NDP Working Group are doing a detailed landscape sensitivity and capacity assessment to help planners, landscape architects, developers, community groups and others understand the likely effects of different development scenarios on the landscape.

This applies to not only the centre of Ledbury, but also the wider parish and includes connectivity between parishes and counties.

The Ledbury NDP Connectivity Group plan to look in more detail at transport, cycle and footpath links both within the parish of Ledbury and into neighbouring parishes.

The official map of public rights of way is scheduled to be closed on 1 January 2026 to claims for public footpaths and bridleways which existed before 1949 but have not been recorded on it. It is therefore important to ensure that the main footpaths that connect communities are documented.

The Ledbury Footpaths Officer is currently working with Cllr Howells looking at the footpaths network. They have come up with a constructive way in which fruit pickers might get from Wellington Heath into Ledbury. The same needs to be done for all major ways in which the parish can connect with other areas.

Ann Vizer commented that some paths in the woods have been churned up due to mountain bikes. It might therefore be difficult to have paths that serve as both walking and cycling paths. In parts of Europe there are separate paths alongside each other for walking and biking. Concern was raised about whether cyclists and walkers would stick to their designated paths. Most agreed that paths

could be shared where they are suitable for a bike but most paths in this area, while passable, are muddy and would not be suitable for cyclists.

There are plans to reinstate the canal from Hereford to Gloucester, but the funding required is a significant obstacle to this project going ahead and it is not clear when this might happen, if at all.

Richard Simkin observed that the route of the canal is protected. He suggested that a track could be laid along the route linking Ledbury with Dymock. Cllr Howells said it would not be unreasonable for Ledbury and Dymock to have as a shared ambition the implementation of a recreational cycling and walking route along the route of the canal say over the next ten years. Ann Vizer observed that this would effectively be reinstatement of the towpath.

Dee Chamberlain pointed out that the GCC Local Transport Plan is really pushing the idea of connectivity. Combining bridle, cycling and walking routes. With an aging population, places need to be mobility scooter friendly to make them more accessible.

There is a strong focus on the environment and increasing health and lifestyle. It is critically important to think about how non-motorised traffic can be accommodated.

Cllr Howells said the Ledbury NDP Group has lots of ideas about what they want to do, some of which link in with what the Dymock NDP Group is doing. He suggested it would be worth putting together a task group of two or three members to liaise with the Ledbury NDP Group on such ideas.

Cllr Andrew Perry and Mike Townsend were put forward as potential members of such a task group. Suggestions were made to also involve the Windcross Paths Group and the Newent NDP Group.

#### Neighbourhood Development Plans

Cllr Howells said that a planning application had been turned down based on the settlement boundary given in the Ledbury NDP. However, the Ledbury NDP was at the 'Reg 14' stage and the examiner later turned the NDP down.

When writing the design guide, the Ledbury NDP were advised not to write that developers *must* do this or that but to rather use language like '*it is desirable that...*'

If you include residential development in your NDP it needs to be renewed every couple of years. The Core Strategy in Herefordshire is to 2030 and they are already starting to look at the next one.

Ledbury is dividing their NDP into two. Partly due to the costs involved and partly because they want a settlement boundary and can't do it all at once.

If the Ledbury NDP obtains evidence of what the community wants in terms of say footpaths, then they can go to Herefordshire Council and ask that this be included when they update the Core Strategy.

#### Traffic Management

Ledbury Rugby Club is on Ross Road. They have a traffic management group set up by Cllr Howells. They were looking at putting up speed indicator devices. They met with the police and found out that the police and the ward council would need to agree. There was a desire to reduce the speed limit from the top of the road to 40mph. They were told this could not be done because of insufficient infrastructure. When asked what infrastructure was required, they were told speed indicator devices and gateways. They applied to put speed indicator devices up on that stretch of road, but the application was refused because of the 50mph speed limit.

Cllr Howells stressed the need to be campaigning for 20isPlenty in rural villages.

He ended the discussion with an open invitation to attend future meetings of the Ledbury NDP Group by arrangement.

#### **4. Business Survey**

Kate Bough and Barbara Pond were unable to attend the meeting due to flooding/road closures. It was therefore agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

## 5. Vision and Objectives – Using the consultation

The top six priorities (aligned with the headings discussed at the January meeting) were identified as follows:

### 5.1. Special Places and the Environment (**Richard Simkin**)

Character and distinctiveness of the area includes:

- Special places
- Ruralness (i.e. scattered housing and small developments of 5 houses or less)
- Daffodils
- Heritage

### 5.2. Tourism and Business (**Jackie Tweedale**)

- More opportunity and support for small businesses
- Conversion of disused farm buildings to small business units
- Need for (superfast) broadband

### 5.3. Connectivity (**Mike Townsend**)

- Transport links
- Cycle and footpaths

### 5.4. Community Facilities (**Unassigned**)

### 5.5. Built Environment and Housing (**Tony Eagle & Andrew Perry**)

- Specifically housing *needs and development*

### 5.6. Public Transport and Road Safety (**Terry Ball and Bob May**)

**Action:** Group members responsible for the priority areas identified above should produce area specific objectives for circulation in advance of the March meeting.

These objectives will form the basis of the overall NDP vision.

## 6. AOB

### 6.1. FoDDC Strategic Housing and Economic Availability Assessment 2020 (SHELAA)

**Action:** Cllrs Tony Eagle and Andrew Perry to draft a response to the 2020 SHELAA.

### 6.2. FoDDC Local Transport Plan Review

**Action:** Dee Chamberlain to draft a response to the Local Transport Plan Review

### 6.3. Housing Needs Survey – set a date for a separate meeting

It was agreed that the Housing Needs Survey should be included on the agenda of the next scheduled NDP meeting taking place on 16 March 2020.

## 7. Venue and Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Dymock NDP Steering Group will take place on Monday 16 March 2020 at 19:30 in the Committee Room at Dymock Parish Hall.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 21:36pm.

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NDP Steering Group (Chairman)

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Date

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Dymock Parish Council (Chairman)

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Date