



# FUTURE DURSLEY

Our Neighbourhood Plan

## **Future Dursley Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Minutes of Steering Group Meeting 7pm on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

Present: Chair, Councillor Neil Grecian, Mike Johnson (Dursley Resident), Nick Organ (Dursley Resident), Councillor Sue Creswick, Jonathan Bird, (Dursley Resident), Cleo Newcombe-Jones, (Place Studio), Duncan Kerr, (Place Studio), Anita Gambie (Dursley Town Council).

1. Apologies for absence

Councillor Wendy Thomas, Gayle Collins (Dursley Resident), Krystyna Dembny (Dursley Resident), Councillor Mel Laybourne, Councillor Clare Nelmes, Leah Wellings (Dursley Town Council)

2. Minutes from 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016

The Minutes were agreed.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

Cam and Dursley Youth Forum had been asked if they would like to join the Steering Group at the December Meeting. This has been postponed from November due to time constraints of other items on the Agenda, namely for the Steering Group to review the latest draft NDP.

4. Feedback from meeting held with Ricardo Rios, SDC on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016

Ricardo met Anita and Leah and provided advice on several aspects of the draft NDP. This covered process issues, regulatory requirements and some specific comments on Version 8 of the draft NDP.

a. Proposed local green space designations

Further to the short list of proposed local green space designations (LGSD) agreed at the October SG Meeting, Ricardo had advised us to review our decision making approach to this process, to ensure that decisions regarding which spaces go forward into the plan have been made consistently and transparently. At the examination stage we would need to be able to justify those spaces which had been proposed as well as those which had not.

The group agreed to review the original list against the criteria set out in paragraphs 76 and 77 of the National Planning Policy Framework. A separate meeting would be



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set up to carry out this exercise with 1-2 members of the SG. The consultation evidence would also be rechecked to ensure comments made at consultation events feed into this process.

b. Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment

Ricardo advised us to send a copy of the draft plan to SDC for an initial screening which would help to determine whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) are required.

A SEA is an assessment which looks at the positive and negative environmental issues that the plan might have on local environmental assets. There is a network of protected sites across Europe, which includes Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and RAMSAR sites. These are designated for their flora, fauna or birds under the Habitats Directive or the Birds Directive, respectively. Collectively these sites are known as European sites. All plans and projects which may have a significant effect on designated European sites are required to undertake and HRA.

c. Further advice and guidance

Ricardo also provided advice on a range of other neighbourhood planning related issues:

- A light touch survey may not be required given the level of existing consultation already undertaken within the local community.
- Advice was provided on the key qualities and attributes the group should seek when selecting an Examiner for the health check and examination.
- Clarity was also provided about the principles for development locations.
- A list of contacts for the following statutory consultees; County Council, Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England.
- Confirmation that a full sustainability appraisal may not be required but the plan will need to demonstrate how it contributes to sustainable development.

Ricardo also confirmed that he is leaving SDC on the 14<sup>th</sup> November and that Mark Russell, Planning Strategy Manager would be the first point of contact for neighbourhood planning issues until a new officer had been appointed. He also suggested that we set up a meeting with his replacement once there is a person in post.



5. Discuss and agree a revised approach to Proposed Local green Space Designations

This item was discussed under item 4a.

6. Review of revised draft NDP and Draft Development Strategy

Cleo gave an overview of the revised draft and described the main changes between versions 8 and 9 of the draft plans. The following observations and comments were made by Place Studio and members of the SG:

- Figure 4 (page 14) is a locally specific diagram which summarises the key policies
- It is difficult to have land use planning policies in the Transport section.
- The SG needs to decide which photos they would like to include and where these should be located throughout the document.
- Given the large number of photos the group needs to decide how to narrow the list down.
- The importance of the role of the plan in promoting the town was noted.
- The SG would like to have the photographs interspersed between different pages and parts of the text rather than just using the four per page 'block system' in the current draft.
- Photos illustrating the landscape and key views in and out of the town need to be distinctive to Dursley.
- The group were reminded that they had already decided to agree the text for the plan before selecting final photos.
- There is still a requirement for some photos of businesses in Dursley. Jonathan offered to ask Krystyna if she may be able to do this.

Maps

In discussion the following points were made about the maps:

- Maps need to demonstrate quickly, clearly and easily the purpose for their inclusion within a document.
- They need to be a high resolution to ensure a good level of quality when reproduced in a published format.
- The number of maps illustrating the listed buildings could be reduced and the clarity of those used within the draft plan needs to be improved.
- The SG agreed that it would be better to have fewer better maps than the large number of current maps many of which are difficult to read.
- SG members were asked to review the number of maps and identify any they felt which could be removed. **Suggestions to Anita by 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016**



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- Anita would contact Vince Warwick at SDC to find out what changes he could make to some of the existing maps.

### Review of Economy Projects

The potential projects to support the Local Economy under the Economic theme were briefly discussed.

These are:

- a. Set up a Business Improvement district
- b. Form a retailers association
- c. Implement a marketing campaign for Growth Hub to businesses
- d. Promote apprenticeships to local businesses
- e. Develop a business for Dursley
- f. Form a tourism action group
- g. Other specific actions aimed at developing the local economy.

It was noted that some of these are existing projects and others would need agreement from the Town Council before they could be included in the pre-submission copy of the draft plan.

### 7. Date and Chair of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on **14 December 2016** and chaired by **Sue Creswick**