

Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring & review Group meeting

2nd December 2021

Present: Carol Burrow, Steve Whiteley, Anita Jellings, Jean Trehwitt.

Apologies: Martin Ware

This was the first meeting of the Group following adoption of the North Tawton Neighbourhood Plan on 25th May 2021.

The following are the objectives and tasks set out for the group:

Objectives

1. *To ensure the consistent and comprehensive implementation of the North Tawton Neighbourhood Plan.*
2. *To involve the community of North Tawton in achieving the delivery of the North Tawton Neighbourhood Plan.*
3. *To recommend any amendments and/or modifications of the North Tawton Neighbourhood Plan.*

Tasks

North Tawton Neighbourhood Plan Group will carry out the following tasks:

- *To monitor the Neighbourhood Plan twice a year, and review the Plan and any modification required at least every 5 years following the date of its adoption;*
- *To consider and recommend any amendments or modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan to NTTC, to consult with the community with regard to any proposed changes and for the Chair or Vice Chair to liaise with WDBC regarding matters arising in this respect;*
- *To provide updates of the work of the Group to NTTC and to the community on the NTTC website*

Currently there are 3 Councillors and 2 Members of the public on the group – there is space for another member of the public.

There doesn't appear to be any particular process or forum within West Devon Borough Council (WDBC) where Parishes, with made Neighbourhood Plans, share information about monitoring and review. Below is an extract from an email from Duncan Smith in relation to monitoring which he sent back in August 2021.

'In terms of monitoring I had my first Monitoring Report from Bigbury earlier this year. It's posted on the website. It's worth taking a look to see how they approached it. We are looking to push to get more NPs going in West Devon over the next year. I think that will take up a lot of time but I am available to help Groups who have Plans in place.....Strete and Salcombe are going through the process of modifying their "made" NPs. The modification process is quite easy if you want to fine tune

or even make a substantive modification(s). Kingswear NP was made earlier this year and they are embarking on an immediate review. Funding is available from Locality to do this.'

Anita asked whether there was a role for the group in monitoring and reviewing the section 106 'wish list' which is within the Community theme of the Plan. This is something that has been discussed within the council and in feedback to a recent consultation process when the need for more involvement in the process of drawing up 106 Agreements was highlighted.

Jean to check with Mel Bickell whether she had had a response to an email sent to WDBC re this. (email sent on 10th August highlighting section of the Plan with the wish list)

It was suggested that there should be a standard agenda for this group, which could include monitoring of 106 agreements.

Monitoring the impact of NP policies in planning recommendations and decisions

North Tawton Town Council

Analysis of planning applications since May 2021 showed that out of 15 Planning applications considered, 12 didn't refer to the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and 3 did.

The 3 included reference to relevant NP policies in the responses from North Tawton Town Council (NTTC) where 2 were supported and one objected to. Decisions are awaited on 2 of these.

The majority of the applications with no reference to the NP related to communications, sheds/shelters, TPO, discharge of conditions or gardens.

Noted that there are no specific ecology policies within the NP because there is an expectation that Joint Local Plan Policy DEV26 will always apply. Appropriate approaches will often be site specific and NTTC will want to ensure that due consideration is given to each situation.

West Devon Borough Council

In 2 planning applications since May 2021, WDBC did refer to the NP but worryingly said in one officer report *'The Neighbourhood Plan has reached an advanced stage and this development complies with those policies'* and in another report *'A Neighbourhood Plan is currently under preparation for the Parish of North Tawton but it has not yet reached a stage where it can be considered material to the decision making process'* Both these Officer reports were written in November 2021. These were 2 different Planning Officers.

Prior to May 2021 there were references, by WDBC Officers in their reports, to the NP having reached an advanced stage therefore policies were taken into consideration when decisions were made.

Proposals for the way forward

North Tawton Town Council

All NTTC consultation responses to Planning applications should start with the statement that North Tawton Neighbourhood Plan was made on 25th May 2021.

This should follow with 'This application complies with NT NP Policies' listing the relevant policies or where it doesn't comply to state this, and the relevant policies. If further detail is required the wording should be agreed at the Council meeting.

Where there is no relevance e.g. Communication masts the response should state this.

It is important that all Councillors are aware of the NP policies when considering planning applications. It is proposed that the policies are compiled in a separate booklet for all the Councillors to have. Jean to discuss with Sarah/Mel.

Jean & Carol to prepare a briefing for Councillors when considering significant planning applications referring to the relevant policies.

Where appropriate any response should ensure there is reference to the Design Statement.

The NP page and link on the NTTC website should be updated and be more prominent – Jean to discuss with Sarah/Mel.

West Devon Borough Council

Planning Officers should be reminded that NT NP was made on May 25th 2021 and should be used when considering planning applications. – Jean to contact Duncan Smith to feedback.

It is also important that Cllr Barry Radcliffe is made aware of this.

Future meetings

To agree a standard agenda for 6 monthly review meetings

Next meeting May 2022