

MINUTES

INITIAL MEETING OF THE TETSWORTH NDP REVIEW STEERING GROUP

At 7 pm on 16th November 2023

At 26 Silver St, Tetsworth

Attendees:

John Gilbert (JG)
Paul Carr (PC)
Simon Wilson (SW)

1. Introductions and Agreement on Roles

JG opened the meeting and explained that this was the Initial meeting of the Tetsworth Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group (SG). It was agreed that the SG would comprise:

John Gilbert
Paul Carr
Chris Thompson – Apologies for the Initial meeting
Simon Wilson

It was further agreed that JG would Chair, PC would be the primary link into the Parish Council (Responsible Body), and SW would act as the Secretary. All the work for the review would be shared equitably amongst the members and on that basis it was agreed there was no requirement for additional members though this may be reconsidered if the workload became onerous.

2. Reason for Review

The primary reason for the review of the Tetsworth NDP is to keep pace with the review of the Joint Local Plan for SODC / VoWH that starts consultation on preferred options in January 2024 and should be adopted by the end of 2025. Though there is no requirement to review the Tetsworth NDP at this time, there is value in doing so in line with the Joint Local Plan.

Additionally, the current NDP does not mention Climate Change nor has a policy on Renewable Energy (Solar / Wind farms in the area) and this review offers the opportunity to include them in the NDP. Similarly we may wish to include a Design Guide that is not in the current plan.

3. Scope of NDP Review / Engagement Obligations.

There are three main options for the review which have different implications on the process and particularly the engagement / consultation requirements; namely:

- a. Editorial only
- b. Changes within original framework
- c. Significant policy changes beyond original framework

It was agreed that Option B is preferred as this would enable the desired changes without the need for a referendum. The SG could decide that Option C is more appropriate at a later date.

For Option B the engagement obligations are to publish the SG Agenda and Minutes and to report progress to the Parish Council as the 'Responsible Body'

ACTION – PC to create a page on the Tetsworth Parish Council website for the NDP Review

ACTION – PC to ensure that the NDP Review would be a standing agenda item at all Tetsworth Parish Council Meetings

Afternote: These actions were discussed and agreed at the Council Meeting on 11th December 2023.

4. Review of Vision, Objectives and Policies

A review of the Vision, Objectives and Policies will be the single Agenda item at the next meeting of the SG. This will consider the implications of climate change and the emerging Joint Local Plan policies in addition to other potential changes to the NDP.

The SG also discussed the external support that could be available including, but not limited to:

- a. SODC officers – to be designated
- b. Locality Design Guide – to follow
- c. Locality grants – to employ consultants to review policies, compliance checks against local plan, and similar services.

These requirements for this support will be considered in more detail once the SG has set the scope and objectives of the Review.

5. Implications of Housing Allocation

Providing a Housing Allocation (identification of potential development sites for one or more dwellings) would provide additional ‘protection’ for the NDP but it was recognised that there are few, if any, sites within Tetsworth, and there may be other implications of providing an allocation. This will be reviewed as part of the Review.

6. Update of Evidence Base

The SG discussed the need to update the evidence base and in particular to access the 2021 census data though the specific data for Tetsworth was not readily available. This will be investigated before the next meeting.

All members of the SG were advised to read the information on the Joint Local Plan 2041 on the SODC website before the next meeting.

7. Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be arranged once the Review has been discussed and approved by Tetsworth Parish Council

Afternote: This meeting has been arranged for 18th December at 19:00hrs at 26 Silver Street