

Horton & Wraysbury NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Steering Group meeting, Monday, March 16, 2015,

Present from Steering Group: Andrew Davies, Samantha Rayner, Margaret Lenton, Peter Lord, Diana Hughes, Colin Rayner, Fred Parsons, Julie Gomme .

Also present: Phil Gill (RBWM), Brian Whiteley (Planning Aid England).

1. Characterisation Assessment – BW reported that a draft schedule analysing the character of the plan area was received that lunchtime. The SG meeting discussed the contents and broadly agreed with what had been stated and that it was a good starting point.

Agreed that BW would annotate with comments made by the group in discussion and then return to FP for circulating to the wider group to examine in more detail and add further comments. Any suggested changes would be collated and returned to BW.

2. Some areas had not been covered, probably due to time constraints. BW to ask the two volunteers to complete their assessment work – he will separately raise this with Darren Carroll at PAE for any comments from him.

3. New Neighbourhood Planning Funding – BW briefly outlined the main points of the new funding programme introduced by DCLG on February 27. A letter has been circulated by Locality, detailing the type of funding available and possible projects which it might cover.

Noted that the group is considering appointing a consultant to undertake the policy drafting stage.

4. RBWM Local Plan Update – PG outlined the RBWM Cabinet decision on February 26 – all proposed housing site allocations on Green Belt land have been withdrawn; work on a second “Preferred Options” version of the plan is underway with a view to a consultation on this during Summer, 2015. The timing of further work is inevitably unclear at present, but a Pre-Submission draft of the Local Plan will then be prepared for a further consultation stage. A final Submission draft of the plan will then be prepared prior to an Examination in Public before a Planning Inspector (probably during mid-2016).

5. Vision Statement – the group agreed four main changes to the draft tabled in the previous minutes: (a) “reflective of” to change to “reflects”; (b) delete words “existing and proposed” in front of “infrastructure”; (c) delete word “so” after “community’s needs and wishes”; and (d) after “attractive and safe place” delete words “in which to live”.

Over-arching Vision revised as: -

To retain and enhance the semi-rural character of our historic villages, while allowing for sustainable growth and ensuring that infrastructure reflects the community’s needs and wishes, keeping it an attractive and safe place for everyone.

6. Objectives – Looking at what should be worked on next, BW circulated some examples and copies of an analysis work sheet for the individual Topic Groups to use to list the issues under their respective topics and then develop a set of possible options for addressing these.

These would be a key step towards developing a set of policies and projects for the draft plan to take forward for consultation.