



**ALCESTER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW STEERING GROUP MEETING
WAS HELD ON 26 MARCH 2024 AT 10.30AM
AT GLOBE HOUSE, PRIORY ROAD, ALCESTER**

Present

Cllr Wendy Mills (Vice Chair) David Wall, Ian Greig, Colleen Chester, Kevin Bell, Cllr Kathryn Cargill and Town Clerk, Vanessa Lowe

The meeting was attended by John Bunting, representative of the Civic Society.

1. Apologies

Deputy Town Clerk, Sarah Duran.

The Chair Andrew Matheson sent apologies after the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of last meeting

Approved and signed by the Vice Chair.

4. Housing Needs Survey

Wendy Mills explained that it had been agreed at the ATC Full Council meeting on 5th March that the issue of identifying available land for affordable housing would be passed to the Steering Group. The results of the Housing Needs Survey will be sent to all Steering Group members.

5. Review of the scope of current NDP policies

The Vice Chair thanked Colleen Chester for her work on the list of facilities in the town. It was agreed that the list could also include facilities available via the churches and the schools. Malt Mill Lane Community Centre also needs to be added. A map showing the location of each facility would be useful.

Natural Environment policies

Agreed that in para 6.5.3 reference to bee-friendly town should be deleted.

NE1 – line 2 “appropriate” replaced with “feasible”.

NE2 – agreed to make reference to ATC Biodiversity Statement.

Agreed that policy should be amended to say that developers should be obliged to achieve biodiversity net gain within the NDP area.

NE3 – discussion about new local green spaces at previous meeting was noted. Agreed that there should be new LGS to cover allotment sites, new Bloor play areas and probably bowls club.

Lengthy discussion regarding what area of land could be included in a new LGS at the old Stratford Road. This could be a limited area adjacent to the river but potentially there is a 15ha site which could be included. Much of this is a Scheduled Monument and is owned by Ragley. Query whether this would be proportionate for the size of the town. Agreed that advice was needed.

NE4 – no amendments required.

NE5 – need to strengthen policy – second line of first para to read “but will also” rather than “but may also”.

Colleen Chester suggested a new project relating to natural flood management. Discussion regarding need to work with neighbouring parishes regarding natural flood management upstream. Vanessa will contact Susan Juned to find out extent of work already in hand.

Agreed that need to check the Core Strategy and Supplementary Planning Documents regarding SuDS and if location outside a flood risk area is a requirement.

Possible additional policy – dark skies

Reference to policy in Southam NDP. Mixed views on whether this would be appropriate in Alcester. On balance, not agreed.

Transport and Infrastructure policies

Agreed that up to date information would be helpful. Vanessa to obtain Road Safety Working Group survey data and bus survey information to inform the discussion.

TI1 – agreed new bike racks in town centre needed.

Discussion regarding need for additional electric car charging facilities.

TI2 – agreed that preference was for underground telecommunications rather than multiple telegraph poles. Noted that legislation regrettably gave no authority to ATC or SDC to object to any such telecommunication proposals.

TI3 – agreed policy could be deleted as it is no longer relevant.

Possible additional policy – solar farms

Need to look for examples of such policies.

Project 3 – car parking.

Agreed that this project needed to be kept in the NDP and to be worked up.

Electric car charging facilities are also relevant to this project.

The Civic Society are keen to get involved and may be able to commission a report on parking in the town. Vanessa will pass on details of potential traffic consultants to Ian Greig. It was noted that as the ANDP aspires to encourage a modal shift to reduce car journeys, the scope of a brief from Alcester Civic Society to a traffic consultant, should also consider the potential to improve cycle and pathways for non-vehicle based journeys.

6. Next steps

Agreed to cover Economy policies at the next meeting.

Vanessa to contact the planning consultant who previously advised on the NDP to obtain a quote for their services.

Discussion regarding the need for a representative from the business community to join the Group particularly when the Economy policies are being discussed.

7. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 29 April 2024 at 10.30am in Globe House.

