

WHPC Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

APPROVED Minutes Friday 14th February 2025

Present: Alison Carr, Margaret Hall (MH), Vivien Shrubsall, Michael Wood, Cllr Ann Cooper, Anne Oliver (WHPC Clerk)

Minutes Approved: NPWG 4th April 2025 (1)

1. To approve the minutes of the meetings of 10th + 31st January 2025.

The minutes of the working group meeting of 10th January 2025 confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

The minutes of the working group meeting of 31st January 2025 confirmed as a true record of the meeting, subject to the addition of “the team agreed to review the current OSM+WH Neighbourhood Plan to identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities”.

2. To receive a report from a meeting with EDDC NP Officer, Angela King.

MH+AO met with EDDC NP Officer, Angela King (AK) on 13th February 2025 to discuss:

- a. Will the WH NP be considered a new plan or a modification of the current plan?

Action: AK would contact EDDC’s Legal Team to confirm the WHNP would be a “NEW” NP rather than a modified version of the current NP.

- b. The availability of grant funding?

- o AK advised that the Government is conducting a competitive bidding process for the organisation to support communities through the development of their NP and applications for grant funding. (The Government is the decision maker on the grant awards). Locality, the current organisation, will be submitting a bid. An announcement on grant funding is expected in July 2025.
- o It’s expected that the Government will announce a three year grant funding scheme.
- o Technical support funding is available but is focussed on NPs delivering growth.
- o EDDC has a limited budget for NP development. They can support the development of a Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) for up to three groups per year. The next tranche opens in April (by request to AK). The HNA is delivered via Devon Communities Together.

- c. Material held by EDDC that may be of use to the working group?

AK gave an overview of the material relevant to West Hill that may be of use to the group.

Action: AK to provide details of their NP Evidence Base.

3. To receive a report on discussion with Locality regarding 2024-25 grant applications. (AO)

The previous meeting asked AO to contact Locality to determine the feasibility of submitting an application for Technical Support Funding in by the deadline, 5pm (same day). AO reported that Locality advised that the 2024-25 grant fund was heavily oversubscribed and the allocation of funding would be decided by central Government (who were expected to prioritise schemes that would deliver growth). If the NPWG were to submit an application a detailed brief for the Design Code work would also be required. As the brief was not prepared it was decided not to proceed with an application at this stage.

4. To consider a Basic Conditions Template (Appendix 1)

The group discussed a draft Basic Conditions Template and tested if it could provide a framework for reviewing existing NP policies and identifying where a new NP could add value.

Possible themes included:

- Housing/Design Code
- Connectivity
- Landscape, Trees, Open Spaces, Green Strategy
- Village Centre
- Community Facilities
- Business + Economy
- Climate Change

The group discussed how community engagement could identify themes, current policies to be enhanced and possible new policies.

5. To consider the agenda for Neighbourhood Plan Working Group workshop 14th March 2025

It was resolved:

- the workshop would develop a community engagement strategy.
- to engage Community Engagement/ Neighbourhood Planning specialist Janvrin Edbrooke to facilitate the workshop.
- to approve a budget up to £400+vat

6. To agree date of next meeting:

Next meeting Neighbourhood Plan Working Group workshop 14th March 2025

14th Feb 2025

Anne Oliver, Parish Clerk

Tel: 07450 388198 / 01404 232100, Email: clerk@westhillparishcouncil.gov.uk