

**MINUTES OF THE
DEVELOPMENT PLAN WORKING GROUP
HELD ON TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2020 @ 4.00pm**

PRESENT:

Councillor Alison Brown (Chair)	Nicola Hopkins
Councillor Judith Clark	Colin Hirst
Councillor Richard Sherras	John Macholc
Councillor Jim Rogerson	Rebecca Turner

APOLOGIES

Received from Cllr Robert Thompson.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

INTRODUCTION

The meeting was doubling up as a briefing for Special P & D committee the following evening that had the same items on the agenda as this meeting.

The White Paper – a consultation paper on proposed changes to the Local Plan system. This had come at an opportune time for us as we are due to review our Local Plan and this has an impact on the Local Plan process.

Changes to the Current Planning System – a consultation on substantive changes to the planning system (NPPF) including the housing numbers formula.

THE WHITE PAPER

The report outlined The White Paper on a single page. It proposes a radical change to the planning system based on a pro-development approach and speeding up decisions. A lot of factors would be outside Local Authority control.

It is based on 3 pillars –

- Planning for development
- Planning for beautiful and sustainable places
- Planning for infrastructure and connected places

Under these 3 pillars sits 24 key proposals – outlined in the report.

Good points to the proposed plan making process included clarifying the test for soundness; more focused evidence, and promoting digital based work (presentation and accessible) – although a rider needs adding about the length of time that would be needed to make this happen.

Core areas for development to take place would need to be identified, along with design codes for each area. Local planning agents had expressed the opinion that this may well be the ‘death’ of innovation.

One size does not fit all, especially in smaller rural districts. The outcome would mean being engulfed in national standards. With regard to local infrastructure, there would be a nationally set levy on schemes which would take away the local negotiations on affordable housing contributions etc.

The underlying concern was the intention to try to standardize things and remove the local opportunity to influence things.

Appendix 3 of the report outlined the set of the questions to be answered for the consultation. Colin had included some corporate answers where the Council's interest needed to be protected. However, some needed member input and these would be discussed in the Special P & D meeting. The deadline for the consultation was the end of October with a probable run in of 18 months to introduction. The response would need endorsement at the P & D committee.

Individual members were reminded that there needed to be a corporate response from committee, but that could also submit a personal one if they wished.

CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO THE CURRENT PLANNING SYSTEM

Colin's main concern about this paper was that it could be introduced much more quickly without any primary legislation – perhaps only a couple of months.

The most important issues were the proposed standard methodology on housing numbers that would immediately increase ours from 143 to 293 overnight; and implications of measure on affordable housing which is critical in terms of operations.

This consultation needed to be submitted by 1 October 2020.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be arranged when required

The meeting closed at 5.15pm

**MINUTES OF THE
DEVELOPMENT PLAN WORKING GROUP
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2020 @ 2.00pm**

PRESENT:

Councillor Alison Brown (Chair)	Nicola Hopkins
Councillor Judith Clark	Colin Hirst
Councillor Richard Sherras	John Macholc
Councillor Jim Rogerson	
Councillor Robert Thompson	

APOLOGIES

None received.

THE WHITE PAPER – CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Following consideration of the drafted response to the White Paper at Special Planning & Development committee on 30 September, Colin had now incorporated committee's remarks into the draft response for the working group to consider again.

A good discussion took place and the following comments were made–

QUESTION	COMMENTS
1	Complex, Lengthy, Frustrating
2b	Too complicated for others
3	Add town and parish councils and parish meetings
4	All of the above – depends on the circumstances and what is right for rural RV (economy, infrastructure, environment)
5	In part
6	Needs to be stronger – don't agree that National policies work for all – National policy compromises democracy Streamlining – difficult to take into account local circumstances General Dev Mgt – takes away local input
8a	Government needs to consider fairness/balance re distribution of numbers RV will easily meet numbers because attractive area – some areas will never get built in. Don't want to be forced to take numbers from other areas. Include in letters to MP etc
9a	Ditto – also include in this answer as above
9b	Swap word 'limits' for 'compromises'
10	No
11	Include phrase 'extremely challenging' in last sentence
12	No

13b	National development policies compromise Neighbourhood Plans
14	Yes
15	Punctuation Desire to keep decision making local – the best place to decide. Sense of place not considered by developers – neither is design suitable to location especially for large developments. Also about soft landscaping not just built development. Need to protect what we have got. Developers held to more stringent measures on energy efficiency. Richard will send response from RSN
21	As listed subject to local decision making ‘at the time’ Linked to sustainability subject to what is needed at the time
22a	Locally driven
22d	Yes
23	Needs punctuation All angled towards CIL – lose local control on occupation
24a	S106 ensure on-site provision Developers not responsible for affordable housing if CIL
24b	No Colin will look at affordable aspects in these sections
25	No
25a	Delivered on-site

ACTION: Colin would do a redraft of the response along with draft letters to SoS and MP and circulate to the working group and Cllr Allan Knox for approval before sending them off.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be arranged when required

The meeting closed at 3.20pm