

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5th November 2019 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors Mrs C Howley (Deputy Mayor), Mrs M Duncan, Mrs G Moseley, Mrs W Odhiambo, Mrs R Wadley, Mrs Marcovecchio

Also present – 1 member of the public

Cllr Mrs Howley chaired the meeting in the absence of the Mayor.

Public Participation Session: None.

12.1 Apologies – Cllrs Mrs Davies, Heathfield, Beard, Ralph, Jones, Mrs Draper, Ms Birkan and the Town Clerk.

12.2 Declaration of Interests - None.

12.3 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received

12.3.1 The Forest of Dean District Council Local Plan 2021-2041 Issues and Options consultation

Each question was discussed and considered and responses unanimously agreed as follows;

Q1 Do you agree that the LP should take as an initial theme the following definition of sustainable development;

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Yes.

Q2 Should the plan look forward to year 2041? Should the plan review and change, where necessary, all of the current AP and CS?

Yes.

Q3 Do you agree with the need to bring carbon emissions down to zero by 2030?

Yes.

Q4 Do you agree with the Vision (2.2 on circulated document) and are there any particular aspects of it that are especially important?

Yes agree, but lack of affordable housing. The Forest of Dean has a reputation of a place where business both innovative and mainstream can start up and grow with appropriate support systems.

- Q5 The table in 2.6 contains a list of key issues, do you agree with them and are there any that are especially important?

Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 agree with key issues, but also overall issue sustainable. Best use of previously developed land, make best use of town centre – support.

Yes – the A48 connectivity, but also A40 and B4215, a third Severn crossing, economy support for enterprise to be strengthened.

- Q6 Do you have any comments on the above (calculation method for delivery of housing and housing trajectory)?

None.

- Q7 Given the calculation in 3.9/3.10 of housing need is an estimate, do you have any comments at this stage?

None.

- Q8 Do you have any comments on the possible land requirements?

None.

- Q9 The basic constraints to development are listed in 3.17-3.28. Would you agree or wish to add or remove any of them?

Add historical woodland and wild flora in Newent.

- Q10 The main settlements listed above have some major constraints as well as opportunities, do you agree with these or are there some opportunities that need to be explored further or some constraints that have not been included?

Newent's opportunities need to be explored further. Serious town planning issues are emerging and need innovative and imaginative plans including a southern bypass or access road.

- Q11 One approach is to look at the settlement hierarchy and propose development in keeping with this, is this the right general approach, if not why not? Are the constraints referred to the right ones?

Yes.

- Q12 Does the need for sustainable development mean trying to locate new development where there are existing services or where new can be provided?

New sites should be located where pre-existing services are available, if possible.

- Q13 In section 5, the areas and strategies all relate to or include the Forest of Dean. How should the Forest of Dean respond? For example, should it place its new development near the other main centres, look to use any improved transport linkages, or co-operate to deliver new infrastructure etc?

All of the above, with the emphasis on co-operation.

- Q14 Referring to items 6.1-6.3 are they the right key messages that need to be considered in thinking about development options? Are there any more? Are some incorrect?

Yes.

- Q15 The basic options in 6.4-6.7 all assume that there will be a certain amount of change spread across the district anyway, whether new housing, employment, shopping or whatever. It is the strategic (major) changes that the options relate to, so for example any named settlement may have some development but if it featured in a particular option then there may be a specific major new site or new neighbourhood. They are explained in greater detail in the document.

Which option or options would you support (please say why and please do suggest general or specific locations that should be considered for new development)?

Majority say yes. Will afford the opportunity to build a model eco town, particularly looking at brownfield sites for consideration e.g. "The Scarr."

- Q16 Do you have any further comments on the range of options? It may be helpful to consider the following: are there any particular difficulties with some? Which may be the most sustainable? How may they be implemented? Which general locations may be best suited to further development?

Park and Ride sites imperative for traffic commuting towards Gloucester/Cheltenham. Improved commuting from the West, rail and bus links.

- Q17 What do you think the four towns or any of the specific locations should look like in 2041?

Self-sufficient, independent, vibrant. Not dormitory towns.

- Q18 Do you agree with the priority areas, how can the LP best address the issues of climate change and renewable energy?

Point 8.6 and 8.7. should be robustly adhered to. Strongly consider District investment in renewable energy initiatives.

- Q19 Are these the main areas to be considered for housing policies in the new plan when seeking to deliver the required types and numbers? Are there any others? Are there any particular locations which should be considered?

Freeing up town centre space above retail premises.

- Q20 How best can new employment be planned for an what can help deliver it?

Education, including emphasis on vocational training.

- Q21 Are these the right Natural Environmental issues to be considered for the LP policies?

Yes.

- Q22 Do you have any comments on how the plan should consider transport and infrastructure issues, what key items will be needed and how may they be delivered?

Light railway, monorail, park and ride. In conjunction with strategic authorities.

- Q23 How should design including conservation be addressed?

Quality and variety in design with regard to the vernacular.

- Q24 Changing town centres are an important plan issue, what policies and approach should be considered?

Policies to protect historic buildings and maintaining a variety of independent small shops. Environmentally friendly.

- Q25 How should the LP approach the issue of promoting healthy lifestyles and what policies are likely to be needed?

Education, suitable accommodation for the elderly to maintain independent living (not sheltered accommodation). New builds providing opportunities for walking or cycling.

- Q26 The questions posed in the document may be used as a basis for responses. However, the purpose of this consultation is to obtain a wide range of responses covering any subject that is relevant to the new LP. If you have any additional points you wish to raise, please do so. There will further opportunities for comments and for suggesting policies or site that should be included in the plan, however, if you would like to suggest any now we would be pleased to hear about them.

No further comments at this time.

The Deputy Mayor declared the meeting closed 9.11 pm.

(Minutes taken by Cllrs Mrs Marcovecchio and Mrs Wadley)