

Newent Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group

Report on Progress

Matters have been moving forward apace, with more than enough items to fill the agenda for each monthly meeting.

Since the meeting of 19th October we have had our regular meeting on the 15th November, at which we considered candidates for, and selected, a preferred Planning Consultant to provide advice and write the policies required. This decision was then put to, and ratified by, the Town Council.

A working group to promote and analyse the Business Survey, which has had a disappointing number of responses so far, has been set up, and this met on 21st November.

We also needed an extraordinary meeting at which the annual budget was set and approved by the Steering Group (as this had not been possible to undertake any sooner) in preparation for application to Locality for the grant which should cover most of the consultancy costs. This meeting took place via Zoom on the 23rd November.

It was decided that, in order to allow for various pre-Christmas commitments of members, the December meeting should be brought forward, and it is due to take place on the 6th December. The new Consultant, Lee Searles, will attend this meeting and advise us on the tasks we must begin as we move towards the next stages of the Plan.

We are moving into a new era for the NDP: there are many areas to be covered, and we will have our work cut out in the months ahead, but we are ready to do what is necessary to produce the best possible Neighbourhood Development Plan for Newent. If any more of the new town councillors are able to attend the Steering Group to help with any of the tasks, large or small, they will be very welcome.

Helen Selwood

Interim Chairperson, Newent Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group

4th December 2023