

Newent Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group

Minutes of the meeting on 3rd October 2023

Venue: Picklenash School

Present:

Steering Group members Helen Selwood (Chair) Cllr Kay Selwyn (taking notes for the minutes), Chris Moore, Clare Stone, Andy Offord Cllr Eddie Wood, Cllr Juli Escritt

Prospective members: Lynn Ashton, Emma Salisbury, Heather Roberts, Judith Steers, Jeff Steers,

Declarations of interest: None raised

Apologies: Ralph Barber – resigned from Steering Group, Cllr Alan Hedley

Apologies on behalf of other council members who were not present were given by the representatives of the council – notice of the meeting was short and other commitments were booked prior to this date. They affirmed that it is not the intention to slow down the good work and commitment of this steering group by changing the ToR to strengthen councilor membership and quorum, but to make all councilors accountable and able to be fluid in their attendance at SG meetings.

The meeting was not quorate – so agenda items requiring a decision were deferred and informal discussion took place, as follows:

The Chair, in reference to the previous meeting, reminded members of the meeting of the need for commercial confidentiality, the need to show respect, and that if impertinent behaviour commenced one warning would be given only, and the meeting would be stopped if there was any repetition. Those present then introduced themselves briefly.

Informal discussion

The Chair shared a brief outline of the strategy for NDP and referred those present to seek further information about the current and emerging Local Plans from the FODCC website.

The NDP must be about how we influence the character of our community by listening to the community, it's not about stopping developments, but helping to shape them. It may be that this can be done most effectively by having a core Steering Group with working groups reporting back to it, which could meet more frequently than the monthly SG meetings.

The NDP needs to identify who are our community representatives, where are the gaps and how can we get the voice of the underrepresented, including a

'mobile' cohort. Those present contributed to a list of potential stakeholders, including whether they could either represent a community organisation themselves or make contact with those who might be able to.

Consultants' submissions had been sent out by email and all were urged to read these in preparation for selection, if possible, at the next meeting.

Next meeting

7pm on Wednesday 18th October at Picklenash School. A draft agenda will be shared prior to the date.

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm