

# **Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council (SMPC)**

## **Minutes of the Neighbourhood Steering Group Meeting held at Methodist Church Hall, Mortimer on Tuesday 18th of June 2024 at 7:30pm**

### **Notes**

#### **1. Present**

Graham Bridgman (GB); Bob Coe (BC); Doug Overett (DO); Neil Kiley (NK); Tennant Barber (TB)

#### **2. Apologies**

Sabina Netherclift (SN); Nick Carter (NC); Jo Wines (JW); Amanda Marsden (AM); Ana Hernandez AH

#### **3. Declarations of Interest**

None

#### **4. Working Group Reports**

#### ***Actions arising***

BC had spoken to AH re actions. AH was to speak to JW, but not known where the actions had got to.

DO commented that we did get a note of WBC response to TAF pre-app (although not the response itself). Will circulate.

DO to speak to Richard Bourne re school's position. DO to draft school letter.

NK to draft letters to surgery and to ICB.

## **4.1 Reserved Land**

DO said TAF were eager to bring a planning application.

There was a discussion regarding the options and the wording of the SMPC Resolution (14 September 2023) regarding the formal review of the NDP, in the light of the potential removal of the land reserved for the surgery from the proposal.

Agreed that a response from the surgery and ICB is vital to the question. Also agreed that SMPC's view on removal of "Reserve space for a possible medical surgery in the future" from the Resolution would be needed (and, possibly, a request to Resolve to remove that sentence from the review Resolution).

Agreed that such a proposal could form part of the monthly NPSG report to SMPC. If we want to propose a Resolution to revise it needs to go in so it can be on the agenda for the SMPC meeting on 11 July (subject to answers and short time frame) GB to take a look at a draft resolution that might cover all the angles.

## **4.2 New Neighbourhood Plan**

### ***Local Plan Review***

GB said that he had attended the West Berkshire Local Plan examination meeting on 5 June at Shaw House (available on YouTube) because he had been concerned that, at an earlier session, it had been expressed (eg by agents for TA Fisher) that Mortimer ought to take some housing as a rural service centre (possibly via a review of the plan if it passed the examination).

At the 5 June meeting the Inspector dismissed the concern on the basis that the current Plan does not require Mortimer to take on any more houses.

### ***Neighbourhood Plan Timescales***

Nb per papers at Local Plan examination the date now extends to 31 March 2041

### ***Locality Grant application***

See BC email dated 4 June, and in particular the lack of response from consultants, meaning that we need to get on with technical support grant application to Locality:

- Locality have established a partnership relationship with AECOM;
- AECOM are Locality's preferred consultants;
- AECOM do not appear to be contactable directly;
- if we wish to use AECOM we submit a request for a technical support package (eg design codes) to Locality who, if they judge our request can be supported, will establish a contact between SMPC and AECOM - if a work package is agreed Locality will fund the work as a

technical support package without us having to prepare and submit a financial request backed up by quotations;

- if we wish to use AECOM for other support work this can be negotiated once we have been put in contact with AECOM;
- to move the possible use of AECOM forward we need to prepare an application for submission to Locality.

TB, BC and AH had met to draft the Locality application for a technical support grant, and circulated a draft (see AH email dated 13 June).

GB's email dated 14 June with comments on the draft was discussed and the following amendments to the draft application were agreed:

- P2 – Local Plan period now 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2041;
- P6 – deprivation score will be <20%;
- P7 - the Neighbourhood Area was designated by WBC on 16 December 2013;
- P9 - "Mortimer Railway Station" to replace "Mortimer Station".

## **5. Any other business**

N/A

## **Close**

Meeting end 21:00

Next meeting – 16.07.2024 at 19:30pm – Methodist Church Hall, Mortimer