**Minutes of a meeting of Newbury’s Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group**

**Held via Zoom**

**22/03/2022 at 7:00/19:00**

**Present:**

**Newbury’s NDP Steering Group:**

1. Newbury Town Council (NTC): Councillors Nigel Foot (Chairperson), David Marsh, Vaughan Miller (Joint Project Manager), and Martha Vickers
2. Members of the public: Ian Blake, John Brownell, Paul Millard, Anthony Pick, Louise Sturgess (Deputy-Chairperson), and Kim Whysall-Hammond (Joint Project Manager)

**Other Attendees:**

Jeremy Flawn (Bluestone Planning) and Darius Zarazel (NDP Secretary and Democratic Services Officer, Newbury Town Council)

**37. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Martin Colston and Gary Norman.

**38. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**39. Minutes**

**Proposed:** Kim Whysall-Hammond

**Seconded:** Anthony Pick

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting of the NDP Steering Group held on 22/02/2022, be approved.

**40.** **NDP Objectives**

The Steering Group considered the notes on the Draft Objectives provided by Bluestone Planning and West Berkshire Council and approved the revised Objectives, laid out in full in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

One consideration that Mr Flawn highlighted is the amount of work that is needed for a large plan, such as a plan with the number of policies found in the draft Objectives approved by this Steering Group. The members should be aware that every policy needs evidence and so each policy will take work.

Also, policies should be different enough from the Local Plan as to justify the NDP, but they can also be aspirational.

The ‘Community Aspirations’ chapter of the NDP can carry weight and are most likely to be relevant when a developer is looking to engage in positive discussions with the Town Council and community, so they know what their priorities are.

**41. Community Consultation**

An initial draft community questionnaire, appended to these minutes as Appendix 2, was discussed by the Steering Group.

The Steering Group thanked Kim Whysall-Hammond, Louise Sturgess, and Cllr Vaughan Miller for their work on producing the draft public consultation documents.

Mr Flawn thought the questions in the draft questionnaire were good and would provide lots of data. His main comment was that some questions could be broadened, for example:

* Section 3 transport and access: The questions could be broader to ask people to identify areas of deficiency and areas they want upgraded, areas poorly connected, or additional services desired.
* Section 4 Community Facilities: Are there other community facilities that people want to protect or encourage the provision of? An open-ended question could be useful.
* Section 5 Heritage & Design: ‘First homes’ are a new type of affordable housing aimed at first time buyers, so they could be included in the groups listed. On question 5, you could open up the question to ask for properties or open areas/local green spaces to be nominated to be put forward as non-designated heritage assets.
* Section 6 Sustainability and Climate Change: It might be worth expanding to mention net zero carbon building, renewable energy generation, and so on. Get peoples opinion about these technologies. On the number of EV charging points, do people want to increase charging points, either by a little or as much as 1 point for 1 car?
* Section 7 Biodiversity & Wildlife: There are already good standards for open blue and green spaces. Do people want to go further than the local plan? The environment act will require 10% biodiversity net gain and so the questionnaire could explore if this is enough or are there sites which can be used to offset this.
* That Section 8 Economy and Enterprise questions are useful and could gather relevant local data and so should be included.

The Steering Group thanked Jeremy for his comments.

It was mentioned that a shorter version of this questionnaire might also be produced in an attempt to get more responses from a wider range of people – specifically young people.

Also, some edits were proposed, such as replacing Newbury wards with postcodes, and making the questions more uniform in language.

**42. Forward Work Programme**

It was agreed that the next meeting would approve a final questionnaire and an engagement strategy and timeline.

 The tasks for the next meeting were agreed to be:

* That Louise Sturgess makes any edits, as appropriate, to the draft questionnaire as a result of the NDP Objectives confirmed in these minutes and the proposed questionnaire edits.
* For all members to look at other NDP posters and think about what a Newbury NDP design would look like – the NDP Secretary to ask Bluestone Planning for example material.

**43. To fix the date of the next meeting**

The next meetings were agreed to be held on 20/04/2022 at 7:00pm/19:00 via Zoom.

**There being no other business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 21:12 hrs.**

**Appendix 1**

**Newbury’s NDP**

**(Draft) Objectives**

**HERITAGE AND DESIGN**

**Goal:**

To preserve the historic, market town character of Newbury, while creating a centre for modern, innovative working and living.

**Objectives:**

DH1 – To keep the town centre vibrant with a mix of retail, leisure, residential and business.

DH2 – To secure a balanced residential mix of houses and flats, including appropriate affordable and social housing.

DH3 - To encourage the use of design, materials, and detailing sympathetic to the character of Newbury’s heritage and support contemporary design rooted in an understanding of its context.

DH4 – To identify and conserve historic buildings of Newbury and adopt a flexible approach to their future use and occupation, thus ensuring their preservation and enjoyment.

DH5 - To preserve and enhance our existing garden suburbs, as defined in the Newbury Town Plan Chapter 5[[1]](#footnote-1), and their context.

DH6 - To preserve and protect important views and open spaces across the town and the suburbs.

**SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Goal:**

To achieve zero carbon and aim for net carbon gain for Newbury by 2030.

**Objectives:**

SU1 - To mandate high standards in building practices that promote and aspire to ‘Passivhaus’[[2]](#footnote-2) principles in residential buildings.

SU2 – To promote retrofitting and reuse of existing buildings above redevelopment and unnecessary demolition - as a sustainable alternative.

SU4 - To increase EV charging points, for both on street parking and for new developments.

SU7 – To encourage the highest sustainability standards for new developments, aiming for carbon neutral or better.

**BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE**

**Goal:**

To enhance biodiversity and wildlife in Newbury.

**Objectives:**

BW1 – To preserve, enhance, and where possible, increase our green spaces.

BW2 - To preserve and enhance our blue spaces (canal and rivers).

BW3 - To facilitate and where possible, create wildlife corridors.

BW4 - To promote the inclusion of public open green and blue spaces in developments.

BW5 – To plan for an increase in biodiversity and wildlife habitat over and above that in the Environment Act 2021 in all future developments.

BW6 – To promote tree planting, community orchards, and community gardens.

**TRANSPORT AND ACCESS**

**Goal:**

To reduce car dependence and increase and facilitate active transport. To provide public transport that is attractive to use, affordable and green.

**Objectives:**

TA1 - To remove all but essential traffic from the town centre.

TA2 – To improve and prioritise the walking and cycling routes and infrastructure into Newbury and throughout the town.

TA3 – To facilitate improved green public transport in town and into town from outlying areas.

TA4 – To strategically plan car parking that reduces the need for car use within the town centre.

**COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

**Goal:**

To create in Newbury an inclusive, cohesive, and resilient community for all ages and backgrounds.

**Objectives:**

CF1 – To ensure the Town’s facilities cater for diverse communities with particular emphasis on a broad range of facilities for young people, as well as for families, the elderly, and disabled.

CF2 – To promote increased access for NHS healthcare, both medical and dental, within the planning process.

CF3 – To actively encourage leisure and cultural facilities in the town centre.

CF4 - To keep community facilities in Newbury’s suburbs.

CF5 - To promote Newbury as a sporting destination.

CF6 - To promote Newbury’s Market Place and wharf.

**ECONOMY AND ENTERPRISE**

**Goal:**

To facilitate vibrancy, innovation, and resilience in business through the planning system.

**Objectives:**

EE1 - To restrict permitted development rights thus maintaining office space within the town centre and to promote these spaces for other commercial uses.

EE2 - To encourage the use of co-working spaces across the town.

EE3 – To facilitate the creation of incubator and accelerator hubs and high-quality offices.

EE4 - To promote Newbury as a business destination.

**Appendix 2**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

INITIAL CONSULTATION – DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRE

Version 1

**About this document**

This document sets out draft questions for the initial consultation survey for the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The objectives of the survey are to provide the local community with an opportunity to guide and input to the draft Vision and Objectives developed by the Steering Group.

Questions in Section 1 will allow us to collect demographic information. This will enable us to understand if the response is representative of our local community, as well as cross-tabulate the data.

Questions in Section 2 will enable us to sense check our Vision statement.

Questions in Section 3 – 8 contain questions specifically relating to our Objectives and are grouped under these headings.

The survey will be prefaced with an introduction which outlines why we are doing it, what it is for, how the information we collect will be used and when we will provide feedback.

**SECTION 1: ABOUT YOU**

1. Which part of Newbury Parish do you live in? (Please tick)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| North-West Newbury |  |
| North-East Newbury |  |
| Town Centre |  |
| Westfields |  |
| Eastfields |  |
| St Johns |  |
| Pyle Hill |  |
| South & City |  |
| Valley Road |  |
| Wash Common |  |
| I don’t live in the Parish of Newbury |  |
| Other (please specify) |  |
| Prefer not to say |  |

1. How old are you? (Please tick)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 0 - 9 |  |
| 10 – 19 |  |
| 20 – 29 |  |
| 30 – 39 |  |
| 40 - 49 |  |
| 50 - 59 |  |
| 60 - 69 |  |
| 70 - 79 |  |
| 80+ |  |
| Prefer not to say |  |

1. What is your ethnic group? Please choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| African |  |
| Arab |  |
| Asian / Asian British |  |
| Black or Caribbean |  |
| Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups |  |
| White |  |
| Prefer not to say |  |

1. How would you describe where you live? (Please tick)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Flat |  |
| Terraced house |  |
| Detached house |  |
| Maisonette |  |
| Bungalow |  |
| Semi-detached house |  |
| Houseboat  |  |
| Other (please specify) |  |
| Prefer not to say |  |

1. How would you describe your living situation? (Please tick)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Live on my own |  |
| Live with a partner/spouse |  |
| Live in a family |  |
| Live with friends/house share |  |
| Other (please specify) |  |
| Prefer not to say |  |

1. How far away from your home do you work? (Please tick)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Under 1 mile |  |
| 1-5 miles |  |
| 6-10 miles |  |
| 11-20 miles |  |
| 20 – 50 miles |  |
| 50+ miles |  |
| Work from home |  |
| I’m not working |  |
| Retired |  |
| Prefer not to say |  |

1. How do you usually travel to work? (Please tick)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Walk |  |
| Cycle |  |
| Bus |  |
| Car |  |
| Train |  |
| Work from home |  |
| I’m not working |  |
| Retired |  |
| Other |  |
| Prefer not to say |  |

**SECTION 2: ABOUT NEWBURY PARISH**

1. What do you like about living in Newbury Parish? (Please tick all that apply)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Access to major travel routes |  |
| Close to family / friends |  |
| Easy access to countryside |  |
| Parks and other green spaces |  |
| Friendly atmosphere |  |
| The neighbourhood I live in |  |
| Canal and river |  |
| Independent shops |  |
| Pubs and restaurants |  |
| Schools and College |  |
| Sports facilities e.g. playing fields, gyms |  |
| Arts and culture, including cinema |  |
| Car parking in town centre |  |
| Public transport to town centre |  |
| Public transport to surrounding towns and villages |  |
| Easy to walk/cycle around |  |

Please provide any other comments below.

1. What do you dislike about living in Newbury Parish? (Please tick all that apply)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Car parking in town centre |  |
| Public transport to town centre |  |
| Public transport to surrounding towns and villages |  |
| Traffic |  |
| Lack of variety of shops  |  |
| Lack of local/independent shops |  |
| Inappropriate development (housing & retail) |  |
| Lack of leisure facilities |  |
| Lack of leisure facilities for young people |  |
| Lack of cultural facilities (theatres, cinemas etc.) |  |
| Not enough play areas for children |  |
| Lack of high-quality office space / co-working space |  |
| Difficult to walk/cycle around  |  |

Please provide any other comments below.

**SECTION 3: TRANSPORT & ACCESS**

1. Thinking about transport and traffic in and around Newbury Parish, to what extent would you agree or disagree with the following statements?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
| Northbrook Street and the Marketplace should be fully pedestrianised. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Walking routes in and around Newbury should be improved and made a priority. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cycling routes in and around Newbury should be improved and made a priority. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bus routes and timings should be improved and made a priority. |  |  |  |  |  |
| People should easily be able to come into Newbury town centre without having to drive. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Access to the town centre for cars should be improved and made a priority. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Parking in and around the town centre should be improved and made a priority. |  |  |  |  |  |
| I would use a ‘Park and Stride’ (park and walk) facility if it was available. |  |  |  |  |  |

Please provide any other comments below.

**SECTION 4: COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

1. Thinking about community facilities in Newbury Parish, to what extent would you agree or disagree with the following statements?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
| There is a need for more GP surgeries. |  |  |  |  |  |
| There is a need for more NHS dentists. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Young people need more to do in Newbury town centre. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Young people need more to do in Newbury’s suburbs. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Newbury needs more skate parks |  |  |  |  |  |
| There is a need for more leisure and cultural facilities in Newbury town centre for people of all ages. |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Wharf car park should become an open space for public events. |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Market Place should be a main centre of interest and activity in Newbury. |  |  |  |  |  |

Please provide any other comments below.

1. Thinking about Gyms and Sporting facilities in Newbury Parish, to what extent would you agree or disagree with the following statements?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
| Newbury is well served for Gyms |  |  |  |  |  |
| Newbury needs more football pitches |  |  |  |  |  |
| Newbury’s primary Football Ground should remain in Faraday Road |  |  |  |  |  |
| Newbury’s primary football ground is better placed at the rugby ground in Monks Lane |  |  |  |  |  |
| Newbury’s senior men’s and ladies football teams should be able to aspire to reach their potential and not be limited by the size of the ground |  |  |  |  |  |
| Newbury needs more facilities for Hockey |  |  |  |  |  |
| Newbury has sufficient indoor facilities for sports like Netball, Basketball, Badminton, Squash, 5 a side football, Snooker, Gymnastics, etc |  |  |  |  |  |
| Newbury has sufficient Tennis facilities |  |  |  |  |  |
| Newbury has sufficient indoor and outdoor Bowls facilities |  |  |  |  |  |
| Newbury Rugby Club’s facilities are sufficient to support the town’s rugby needs |  |  |  |  |  |
| Newbury and Falkland Cricket Club’s facilities are sufficient to support the town’s cricket needs |  |  |  |  |  |

Please provide any other comments below.

**SECTION 5: HERITAGE & DESIGN**

1. What sort of housing (if any) do you want to see built in **Newbury town centre**? (Please tick all that apply)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Detached  |  |
| Semi-detached |  |
| Terraced |  |
| Bungalow |  |
| Flats / maisonettes |  |
| Self-build |  |
| Affordable housing |  |
| Retirement properties / housing for the elderly |  |
| No further housing is needed |  |

1. What sort of housing (if any) do you want to see built in the **areas** **surrounding Newbury town centre** (Please tick all that apply)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Detached  |  |
| Semi-detached |  |
| Terraced |  |
| Bungalow |  |
| Flats / maisonettes |  |
| Self-build |  |
| Affordable housing |  |
| Retirement properties / housing for the elderly |  |
| No further housing is needed |  |

1. Thinking about the design of new housing in Newbury Parish, which of the following would you prefer it to be? (Please tick all that apply)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| One-off exceptional design |  |
| Innovative, eco-friendly design |  |
| Traditional building style |  |
| Other (please specify) |  |

1. Thinking about development in Newbury Parish, to what extent would you agree or disagree with the following statements?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
| Development should be in keeping with the scale and height of the surrounding buildings. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Development should be in keeping with the character of surrounding buildings. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Development should be in keeping with the design of surrounding buildings. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Development should be in keeping with the materials of surrounding buildings. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Development using good, contemporary design that is in keeping with existing buildings should be supported. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Development should meet the highest sustainability standards. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Development should aim to measurably improve the environment and biodiversity (net gain?).  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Development should aim to be carbon neutral. (explanation of what this means?) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Maintenance of outside common areas in new housing developments should be the responsibility of West Berkshire Council. |  |  |  |  |  |

1. Thinking about the heritage of Newbury Parish, to what extent would you agree or disagree with the following statements?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
| Historic buildings should be identified and preserved. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Historic buildings should be used in a variety of ways so that people can enjoy them. |  |  |  |  |  |
| New buildings should use design, materials and detailing in keeping with Newbury’s heritage. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Important views should be protected and preserved.  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Open green spaces should be protected and preserved.  |  |  |  |  |  |

Please provide any other comments below.

1. Do you think new business should be encouraged in Newbury Parish? (Please tick)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |
| Don’t mind |  |

1. What type of business would you find acceptable?

8. What type of business would you find unacceptable?

9.Thinking about the retail and leisure facilities in Newbury town centre, please complete the following sentences:

In Newbury town centre we need **more**…..

|  |
| --- |
| a) |
| b) |
| c) |

In Newbury town centre we need **less**…..

|  |
| --- |
| a) |
| b) |
| c) |

**SECTION 6: SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE**

1. Thinking about buildings in Newbury Parish, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
| Vacant buildings should be re-used and re-fitted wherever possible, to help avoid new building and demolition. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Major refurbishments of existing buildings should go above and beyond current minimum building standards. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Buildings should be highly insulated and reduce heat loss as much as possible.  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. Do you think the number of charging points for electric cars should be increased in the area where you live? (Please tick)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |
| Don’t mind |  |

1. Do you think more trees should be planted across Newbury Parish, to help provide protection from the sun?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |
| Don’t mind |  |

**SECTION 7: BIODIVERSITY & WILDLIFE**

1. Thinking about biodiversity\* and wildlife in Newbury Parish, how important would you say the following are to you? (Please tick all)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Very important | Fairly important | Not important |
| Tree planting |  |  |  |
| Community orchards |  |  |  |
| Community / public gardens |  |  |  |
| Parks |  |  |  |
| Commons |  |  |  |
| Kennet & Avon canal |  |  |  |
| River Lambourn |  |  |  |
| Creating wildlife corridors |  |  |  |
| Increasing wildlife habitats (e.g. growing wildflowers, putting up bird boxes etc.) |  |  |  |

*\*Biodiversity describes the whole range of the different varieties of living things and systems on earth e.g. animal species, plant species*

1. How do you think we can increase biodiversity and wildlife in Newbury Parish?

1. Do you think there is a need for more allotments in Newbury Parish? (Please tick)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |
| Don’t mind |  |

If yes, where should they be located? Please describe fully.

1. Do you think new developments should include public, open green and blue (water) spaces?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |
| Don’t mind |  |

1. Do you think new developments should plan to increase biodiversity?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |
| Don’t mind |  |

**SECTION 8: ECONOMY & ENTERPRISE**

1. Thinking about facilities for remote working and start-ups/small businesses in Newbury Parish, to what extent would you agree or disagree with the following statements?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
| I use a co-working space now. |  |  |  |  |  |
| I would use a co-working space if one was available in my local area. |  |  |  |  |  |
| I would use a co-working space for my small / start-up business now. |  |  |  |  |  |
| I would use a co-working space for my small / start-up business in the future. |  |  |  |  |  |
| There is a need for co-working spaces in the town centre. |  |  |  |  |  |
| There is a need for co-working spaces in Newbury’s suburbs. |  |  |  |  |  |
| There is a need for high quality office space in Newbury Parish.  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The conversion of office space into housing should be restricted in Newbury town centre. |  |  |  |  |  |
| The conversion of office space into housing should be restricted in Newbury’s suburbs. |  |  |  |  |  |

*\*Co-working is an arrangement in which people from different companies / people who are self-employed / working from home share an office space*

Please provide any other comments below.

1. Do you think that Newbury Parish is seen as a great place to be for businesses?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |

1. How important do you think it is for Newbury Parish to be seen as a great place to be for businesses? (Please tick)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Very important |  |
| Fairly important |  |
| Not important |  |

1. What improvements do you think should be made for Newbury Parish to be seen as a great place to be for businesses?
1. The Newbury Town Plan can be accessed from the Newbury Town Council website, here: <https://newbury.gov.uk/the-council/key-documents/town-plan/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. ‘Passivhaus’ principles in the UK typically include accurate design modelling using the Passive House Planning Package (PHPP), very high levels of insulation, extremely high-performance windows with insulated frames

airtight building fabric, 'thermal bridge free' construction, and a mechanical ventilation system with highly efficient heat recovery (Passivhaus (2022) ‘What is Passivhaus?’, Available at: <https://www.passivhaustrust.org.uk/what_is_passivhaus.php#2> Accessed on: 23/03/2022) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)