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

**Held via Zoom**

**22/02/2022 at 7:00pm/19:00**

**Present:**

**Newbury’s NDP Steering Group:**

1. Newbury Town Council (NTC): Councillors Nigel Foot (Chairperson), David Marsh, Gary Norman, 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:**

Darius Zarazel (NDP Secretary and Democratic Services Officer, Newbury Town Council)

**30. Apologies**

Apologies received from Councillor Vaughan Miller.

Paul Millard and Councillor Martin Colston registered apologies for being late to the meeting.

**31. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**32. Minutes**

**Proposed:** Anthony Pick

**Seconded:** Councillor Martha Vickers

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting of the NDP Steering Group held on 08/02/2022, be approved.

1. **NDP Vision**

**Proposed:** Anthony Pick

**Seconded:** Kim Whysall-Hammond

**Resolved:** That the following Vision be adopted for Newbury’s NDP:

“We will strengthen Newbury’s economic and historical position as the Crossroads of Southern England by protecting the heritage, architecture, and culture of our market town, whilst continuing to develop a sustainable, innovative, vibrant, and friendly community, where people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities are welcomed and included.”

1. **NDP Objectives**

The Steering Group discussed potential Objectives for Newbury’s NDP and agreed upon a set of Objectives, set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

These minutes will be sent the Bluestone Planning for their advice, and to ensure their conformity with the requirements of NDP Objectives, in advance of their confirmation by the Steering Group at their next meeting.

**35. Forward Work Programme**

It was agreed that the next meeting will confirm the Objectives with Bluestone Planning and discuss the how this can go to the public in the form of a questionnaire.

The NDP Joint Project Managers Kim Whysall-Hammond and Councillor Vaughan Miller, and the Steering Groups Deputy-Chairperson Louise Sturgess, to produce some draft questions and a proposed way of conducting the first round of public consultations in advance of the next meeting.

The Chairperson to contact the planning consultants behind the Town Centre Masterplan to see what questions were used in their public consultations.

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

The next meetings were agreed to be held on 22/03/2022 at 7:00pm/19:00 via Zoom.

**There being no other business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 21:22 hrs.**

**Appendix 1**

**Newbury’s NDP**

**(Draft) Objectives**

**HERITAGE AND DESIGN**

**Goal:**

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

**Objectives:**

DH1 Keep the Town Centre vibrant with a mix of retail, leisure, residential and business.

DH2 Encourage the highest sustainability standards for new developments, aiming for carbon neutral and net gains.

DH3 A balanced residential mix of housing and flats, including appropriate affordable and social housing.

DH4 To encourage the use of design, materials, and detailing sympathetic to the character of Newbury’s Heritage and support good contemporary design rooted in an understanding of its context.

DH5 Identify and conserve historic buildings of Newbury and adopt a flexible approach to their future use and occupation to ensure their preservation and enjoyment.

DH6 To preserve and enhance our existing garden suburbs & their context.

DH7 To preserve & protect important views and open spaces across 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 Mandating high standards in building practices that promote and aspire to passivhaus standards.

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

SU3 As a minimum, to ensure that major refurbishments confirm to contemporary building standards.

SU4 Increase EV charging points.

SU5 Plan for increase in biodiversity in all future developments.

SU6 To promote tree planting, community orchards, and community gardens.

**BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE**

**Goal:**

To enhance biodiversity and wildlife in Newbury.

**Objectives:**

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

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

BW3 To facilitate and where possible, create wildlife corridors.

BW4 Increase wildlife habitat through creative planning processes and land use.

BW5 To promote the inclusion of public open green and blue spaces in developments.

**TRANSPORT AND ACCESS**

**Goal:**

Reduce car dependence and increase and facilitate active transport.

Public transport that is attractive to use, affordable and green.

**Objectives:**

TA1 To remove all but essential traffic from the Town Centre.

TA2Improve and prioritise the walking and cycling routes and infrastructure into Newbury and throughout the town.

TA3 Facilitate improved green public transport in town and into town from outlying areas.

TA4 Strategically plan car parking that removes 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 promote increased diversity in the Town’s offering with particular emphasis on a broad range of offerings 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 in order to maintain office space within the Town Centre – an Article 4 directive.

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

EE3 Facilitate the creation of incubator and accelerator hubs and high-quality offices.

EE4 To promote Newbury as a business destination.