

Minutes of Neighbourhood Plan Meeting 17/11/2020, 7pm

In attendance:

Caroline Rackham, Christine Farleigh, Amy Hardingson, Lin Francis, Ann Page, Ben Thompson, Arthur Davis, Catherine Bartlett

Caroline re-elected as Chair

Amy re-elected as secretary

New Planning Officer at the Council who we need to talk to about Neighbourhood Plan and also talk to council about how the finances are going to be handled for the committee going forward. Caroline to talk to the Town Council and possibly Claire Upton Brown about how we can handle things. Discussed how we need a link between the committee and the council.

Catherine - NFDC get funding for Neighbourhood Plan groups – we need recognition from the council that we need some level of practical support, administrative support, money released etc. Believe we are likely to get more support when the plan is drafted, and things are more concrete.

Final comments on Design Strategy

Caroline has updated from our latest meetings and consultations that have taken place over the last 2 months.

Amy spoke to friend who is an Architect and they suggested getting more census data and projections, and to get more visual maps (possibly using architecture students)

Caroline – That would be a good next step to start looking at.

Catherine: when sending on to people, they need to know the consultations that have happened and the comments and feedbacks that have happened so far. We don't want a cold document that people think has been plucked out of the air – we want people to see the input that has already gone in before they are seeing it.

Caroline has drafted up the context document – does anything need adding?

Arthur – wanting clarity over the wording of ‘bespoke’ because we don’t necessarily want every piece of street furniture to be bespoke.

Caroline – We have changed the wording to find an identity for Totton, but will look again and double check the wording is clear and communicates what we mean.

Lin – What are our options for consultations? Are options for physical events opening up in the near future again?

Caroline – We’ve been posting up activities and suggestions to create online engagement (not had many people doing the activities), but have had lots of comments online.

Shall we see about pulling out some more points from the design strategy to see if we can get some more consultation on this specifically?

Ben – What about the minecraft idea? Has the ability to host something around minecraft and can look into it.

Everyone agrees that would be great.

Ben to look into it, and then we can look at promoting on social media and on the website.

Also would be good to get more of the heritage of Totton into the plan.

Put to everyone – need to pull together all the consultation events and flyers quotes etc. We need to evidence as much as possible. Ann thinks that David Bevan did a summary of the quotes early on and that he had the originals from the first physical consultation events.

Arthur – difficulty with apathy in the town that we need to continue working on

Next steps – what do we want to focus on next?

According to both David and Snug – Snug have been paid for all the work they have done and all the work they have been commissioned for.

But all we have so far is a 2D map.

Catherine – I don't feel satisfied that Snug have given us enough work for what we have paid them.

Caroline – disappointed because we need something visual that people in the town will understand and be able to comment on

Catherine – we do have an active fee proposal which includes more work. We do need to review – what have snug been paid and what have they issued? Do we have any documents?

Caroline – it's a struggle

Amy – do we need to do more identity work? Is this related to difficulties

Caroline – that might be an excellent thing for a next piece of work, but Snug did have a specific brief to work to

Catherine shares documents that she has found to demonstrate the work

Thoughts that the presentation is very poor and there is handwriting which is difficult to read

Catherine does overview – first scribble drawing

- Most people feel Testvale park is underutilised
- That's due to the barrier of buildings
- How we make the links more legible in terms of what there is and what can be accessed
- Opportunity for a green link to the town centre?
- Anchor or flagship or landmark building
- The only way that we can get the whole precinct redeveloped is through residential accommodation
- Also looks at changing pedestrian crossings in order to change the flow of people through the centre
- We need to make better links. A town of many desire lines – ways in which people are moving which identify how people carve out their own routes which reflect the organic ways in which people want to move through the space. Desire lines are bad when they go away from safe crossings etc.
- Moving buildings around the make better use
- Looking at finding space for flats but also not losing vital car parking

Second scribble drawing

- Has a thoroughfare through the precinct
- Has a central plaza type space
- Road was pedestrianised
- Draw people in to the central space which points people to all other areas

Scribble drawing 3

- Looks at the routes
- Shows a contextual view
- Exploring bringing Lidl or another 'anchor store' into the precinct (kind of what poundland does at the moment – but if it was a supermarket brand it would bring more people in)

So we have a presentation of two different ideas that have been well thought through and have merit as being able to stimulate ideas and discussion. We want to look at how the town centre can be master planned, and these ideas do get that thinking going.

However, we need a better visual presentation of these ideas/documents.

Arthur – having sat on NFDC planning for several years, and seen other concept plans – this is not good. Does not look good. We need to see how much was paid for this.

Caroline – we need to explore how we can make these ideas into something that we can communicate. Not convinced about commissioning Snug.

Lin – we need the clarity of how Catherine has just presented it to us. So that laypeople can understand what's going on.

Catherine can look at making something nicer looking in InDesign as a birds eye view. Would be good to have examples of landmark buildings to stimulate ideas. Would help to have annotated pictures too.

Caroline – Claire Upton Brown said – don't pay snug more as we have people at NFDC that can do some of this.

Catherine – once we have gotten this looking better, this then becomes a good resource for going to the council

What do we want to use any outstanding money for?

Caroline – need to find out what Claire can help us with first.

Catherine – what do we think is going to bring most benefit to the plan in terms of work we might want to outsource?

Ann – do we have a lot of say over the precinct?

Caroline – the precinct will not stay the same for the next 10 years, development will happen. If we have a plan and can strategically change designations then we can work with developers to work towards better development happening. Also creating framework that they need to abide by. We are looking to have some element of control/say over what happens.

Catherine shares the land ownership plan/map

- We are helped by the fact that councils own quite a chunk of our land (Totton, NFDC and Hants have bordering land)
- The issue of the house with no owner

AOB?

Catherine – good to touch base to review Snug stuff. Officially disengage them?

Caroline – everyone seems to feel that current work is finished and tied up

Christine – happy to send things to U3A groups for comments

Date of next meeting?

Wednesday 9th December 7pm

Meeting ended at 8.30pm

Actionable items

- Caroline to talk to Totton and Eling Town Council about getting help with Neighbourhood Plan admin & finances (whether or not this involves the new Planning Officer)
- To make the context document clearer or to embed more of it into our documents that we send out to make it clear how much input we have already had
- Caroline to double check wording around 'bespoke/Totton identity'
- To take out some points from design strategy and post online to get some more comments and feedback online
- Ben – to look into minecraft idea
- Everyone – to pull out all examples of consultation and to make sure they are included in context document/definitely included in our evidence

Next steps

- To make the two ideas from Snug more presentable so that we can communicate these master plan ideas to the public (Caroline and Catherine to begin work on this)
- Caroline to talk to Claire Upton Brown about what NFDC can do
- To do work around Totton's identity
- To carry on with consultations