

Weyhill Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Meeting 13 Dec 23

Record of Decisions

Members Attendance:

Anthony Putt (AP), Chair
Clare Hemmings (CH)
George Foster (GF)
Andrea Dashwood (AD)
Emma Roberts (ER)
Tim Grimshaw (TG), Secretary

1. Introduction.

- a. The Chair welcomed WG members to this, the first Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Weyhill Working Group (WWG) meeting. The Chair emphasised how important the Neighbourhood Plan was to shaping the future of development of Weyhill within the Parish. It would provide the protections the Parish needed from unwelcome development.
- b. The Chair explained that the NP (when 'made') would have equal standing alongside TVBC's Local Plan.
- c. AP explained that the principal purpose of this meeting was to explain progress on neighbourhood planning and discuss how the WWG could play its part. He explained how the WG would need to gather opinions, get people involved and help build a Parish-wide NP that met the needs of those in Weyhill within Amport Parish boundaries. He suggested he'd like the meetings of the WWG to be interesting and fun. The meeting discussed a potential role of the WWG's NP activities might be to strengthen the community spirit, encourage more volunteering and develop stronger ties with the Parish Council and wider Amport Parish community.

2. Background. TG explained progress on NP activity so far:

- a. Agreement from TVBC that APC could undertake a NP within Parish boundaries and the formation of a Steering Group (NPSG) under a Chair and APC councillor, Diana Stephenson, with TG as Secretary.
- b. A NP Survey in mid-2022, which had been summarised by our consultant and agreed by APC at a presentation in Jul 23. The Report was posted on the APC website (www.amportparishcouncil.org.uk).¹
- c. More recently, the NPSG had agreed to form three WGs, one for each 'settlement' in the Parish: East Cholderton (Chair Geraldine Grimshaw), this WG for Weyhill, and Amport (Chair Robert Talbot Rice but WG not yet formed).

¹ **Survey-results-Jun23**

PDF (www.amportparishcouncil.org.uk)

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d. There had been a Community Engagement (CE) Meeting in Weyhill in Sep 23 that had been well attended by Weyhill residents, mostly concerned about possible development around the Weyhill area. Feedback from the Meeting is posted on APC's website².

3. **WG Approach.**

a. The Chair tabled the Terms of Reference for the WGs approved at the last NPSG meeting (hard copy provided to each WG member). AP explained that the longer-term focus of the WG was to consider what the key development issues were, and to draft policies that would support future development that was in line with what the community wanted; community engagement was crucial.

b. The Chair tabled a map of the Parish area (attachment 1) and highlighted the WG's specific area of interest. It was agreed that it would be helpful to allocate WG members to areas within the WG's responsibility, to engage with parishioners (door-to-door) and enhance awareness of NP scope, its purpose and the key issues as they evolved, seeking 'their voice' so that policies could be appropriately focused.

c. The meeting noted that 'Amport Parish' was three distinct and different communities. It was agreed that NP policies should helpfully be aligned with perspectives of those for the remainder of Weyhill (but not in the Parish).

d. CH noted that the pace of NP activity might need to take account of a potential change of Government and the associated change in NP-associated policies (particularly housing) that might result.

4. **Potential NP issues.**

a. The meeting noted the possible scope of WG activity shown in the annex to the ToR.

b. The meeting considered whether there was a unique 'character' for Weyhill. It was agreed this would be difficult to define and might ultimately provide the focus for NP scope; if one was needed, how would we generate a unique character?

c. TG highlighted key graphics from the planning consultant following their Character Appraisal and with NP Survey feedback, which had been used at the CE meeting to generate discussion, on housing, green spaces and important views; this might be a helpful start point for WWG scope. For example, the potential development of areas within Weyhill would draw a key focus for our NP work; these plans needed to be re-shaped or resisted. GF commented that housing plans need to be balanced across the Parish and within TVBC and that APC had a key role in taking this up with TVBC.

² **Survey-results-Jun23**

PDF (www.amportparishcouncil.org.uk)

Amport Parish Council Neighbourhood Planning

d. TG noted that the industrial nature of Weyhill was unique to the Parish and TVBC provided specific attention to such areas in the Local Plan, which the WG would need better to understand. The Meeting noted the significant industrial traffic and associated disruption to local roads.

e. The meeting agreed that housing, green spaces and important views might be our initial priorities and agreed to consult before the next meeting.

4. **Future Plans.** TG outlined future plans:

- Community Engagement Meeting 14 Dec 23, Thruxton Memorial Hall, 6-7pm.
- Next NPSG 29 Jan 23.

5. **Any Other Business.**

a. Mindful of data protection requirements, TG asked members present if they would agree to their email being used on WG communications; all present agreed.

b. TG explained that the NPSG ToR had included a code of conduct and asked WWG Members if they could agree to sign to say that they would agree to apply the code of conduct to their ways of working. All signed the Code of Conduct at the meeting. **Action:** TG to provide copy to Clerk APC for the record.

c. It was agreed that the next WWG meeting would be at 8pm on 22 Jan 24 in Weyhill Village Hall, where WG members would feedback on their views about allocating responsibilities within WWG area and on key issues and NP priorities. **Action:** TG to convene next meeting.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

Original signed

Original signed

Tim Grimshaw
Sec WWG
4 Jan 24

Anthony Putt
Chair WWG
4 Jan 24

Attached:

1. Parish Map.