

## Town Development Manager Report For Town Council Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021

### 1. Neighbourhood Plan: Referendum timing

Subject to discussion with NFDC: **The Referendum could be scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021** – to coincide with elections for HCC Councillors and Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner. This would ensure the town did not miss out on increased developer contributions for community infrastructure should the Plan be adopted. For large residential developments, this amount could be substantial. *NB: Application deadline for postal vote would be 20 April.*

### 2. Neighbourhood Plan: promotion

NFDC manage the Referendum process but do minimal promotion. To increase awareness of the Referendum; understanding of the benefits of the N Plan; and to encourage voting: a promotional campaign will be developed to reach all sectors of the community, as included in NMTC's 2021-2 Communications & Engagement Strategy. **Campaign proposals will be developed for Town Council review.**

### 3. Neighbourhood Plan: roadmap for delivery

In consultation with Theresa Elliott, a **Town Development Roadmap\*** – based on the Government's Adaptive Strategy approach, has been proposed, emailed to all members and officers - and presented at the Execs meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. The aspiration and ambition of the N Plan vision projects is strongly emphasised as was the need for wide ranging expertise, skills and activities not currently covered in Town Council processes. The Roadmap proposes that once a project is identified as a discrete and feasible project or, at least, has a route to funding, it has a dedicated Working Group to drive delivery – submitting basic plans, in private session, to Planning to prepare for Pre-App. To be reviewed when considering town development governance options.  
*\* So named due to the need for projects to integrate with broader development plans.*

### 4. Neighbourhood Plan: Town Council preparations

Following agreement at the last Town Council meeting to engage Collaborative Impact Ltd for strategic support, progress so far:

1. **Core Values:** All members and officers were invited to comment on early work carried out by Execs. This prompted the request for a full workshop with sufficient notice for diary planning. To be scheduled. Initial comments, however, suggest a good commonality of views supporting a more collaborative approach with much greater focus on communications and engagement.
2. **Governance:** While a conversation has started, it is clear that much more discussion and exploration is required to identify how best to develop strategy - and access resources, capacity and funding leverage of partners - while synchronising with our existing Town Council processes.
3. **Communications & Engagement Strategy:** In collaboration with Joanna, Emma and Silma – a Briefing was provided on 4<sup>th</sup> February with the request for input to assist with the development of this work. (Many thanks to all those who have responded – all your input will be fully reviewed.)
4. **N Plan Reporting Template.** A draft template has now been agreed which I still need to work through.

### 5. Green Routes

Six 'spokes' have been surveyed and reported with maps. A comprehensive report, written by Jill Colclough, is now being reviewed by the steering group. Our plans align with the New Forest Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan – on which the NFNPA is due to brief the steering group.

### 6. Yellow Buses

The Sunday service of the 1a is currently proposed to start at Whitsun.