



Present – Cllr S Clarke (Chair)

Cllrs J Adams (JA) G Blunden (GB) W Davies (WD) D Hawkins (DH) A Reid (AR) A O’Sullivan (AS)

G Flexman – Town Clerk (GF)

L Coney – Consultant at O’Neil Homer (LC)

Sue Larking – New Milton Residents Association (SL)

J Stamper – New Milton Residents Association (JS)

C Rabbito – Town Development Manager (CR)

Apologies - T Elliott – Assistant Town Clerk (TE) N Saunders – New Milton Heritage Society (NS)

1. Housing Needs Assessment (Appendix 1) and Design Guidance and Codes (Appendix 2)

The HNA is a desk top study using national data to produce a comprehensive evaluation of the housing market and specific housing needs within a particular area. It's used to understand current housing situations, identify future needs, and inform local planning policies. The HNA report produces interesting points on demographics and is in line with the districts HNA.

The Working Party discussed the issue of affordability, particularly for younger people and the need to provide opportunity for care givers in an ageing population. Affordability comes out clearly in the HNA. District Council is also facing the problems in providing a housing mix.

All members endorsed the HNA and accepted the report.

Design Guidance and Codes

SC - the Design Guidance and Codes report was discussed in detail in last night planning. **All agreed they are happy with the document.**

2. Draft Plan (Appendix 3)

The meeting provided the WP an opportunity to collectively look over the policies after the informal public engagement period had concluded.

The Chair led the WP through the policy areas –

NM9 Business and Innovation Centre will be deleted and will eventually result in the renumbering of the policy numbers.

New Policies

NM24 (and NM5) Brownfield Sites (and New Milton Town Centre Regeneration) – It was decided that putting numbers on the plan was to our advantage; to show we have realistically allocated in the NP. LC has prepared a report on the sites.

SC – reiterated that the NP is there to enable and guide development within New Milton. The proposed policies are constructed to support this.

All agreed to endorse the draft plan and its policies for full council meeting.

LC – Once the draft NP is signed off by full council the next steps will be for the consultancy to update the NP dedicated website in time for Reg14.

3. Draft Modification Statement (Appendix 4)

The modification statement is designed to discuss reasons behind why we've reviewed and modified the Neighbourhood Plan.

All feel the modification statement is an important and helpful document.

4. Draft Modification Proposal (Appendix 5)

The modification proposal is designed to track changes in the review process. Existing and proposed policy wording is recorded, and small changes are highlighted (in red and strikethroughs). This enables clear viewing of the tracked changes.

All WP members are happy to recommend for annual Town Council meeting.

5. Next Steps

Regulation 14 starts at the beginning of June 2025. NFDC and the NPA will receive copies of the draft plan. The NP website will be updated in time for Reg14 to make the NP viewable. Emails will go to statutory consultees, to include all neighbouring parishes, utility agencies, local groups, sports clubs, church groups etc. Email send outs will request delivery and read receipts. Advertising will be done via the normal media outlets. Paper copies will be supplied to the same 4 community locations used for the informal public engagement.

Regulation 14 closing date will end in July. Comments received during this time will be recorded. The consultancy will prepare a report on the responses. Any email contact will need to be passed to NFDC and NPA. The WP will look to reconvene at the beginning of September.

Date of next meeting – TBC

Meeting closed 1 pm.