



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)

J Stamper – New Milton Residents Association (JS)

C Rabbito –Town Development Manager (CR)

Apologies - T Elliott – Assistant Town Clerk (TE) Sue Larking – New Milton Residents Association (SL)

N Saunders – New Milton Heritage Society (NS)

1. Update on technical packages

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) – currently on hold for technical reasons. The report will be delivered in time for reg 14 consultation.

Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) – we are waiting on the report. The HNA involves analysing data to understand housing need in the town. It is a desk top study to highlight requirements, which can be used in planning policies.

2. Updated Policies (Appendix 1)

LC explained that the policies are now the basis for the informal engagement pack. The WP went through each policy.

NM1 – no change from the last meeting. In terms of the existing special plan, we have one site on the brownfield NM24 policy that falls just outside the built-up area – Old Milton.

NM2 – this will be based on the results of the HNA.

NM3 – is to ensure the delivery of retail use on the site and to also enable the site to be used for a hub and the community.

NM4 – we are waiting for the draft Design Guidance and Codes report, which will reach us before the engagement period. Once received, the wording will be cross checked against current wording.

NM5 – within the original brownfield list, sites 1 – 15 are town centre. The remaining sites listed within the NM24 Brownfield policy.

NM8 – no change.

NM9 – removed.

NM10 – discussion came up about the Lloyds bank building and concern over protecting its outside architectural features. WD questioned if Saint Mary Magdalene should be added to the list. SC pointed out its already in a conservation area and listed and has a statutory protection over it.

NM11 – retained.

NM12 – mapping will be made clear within the policy, and we will ask the public to validate during engagement.

NM13 – no change.

NM14 – Wording will be included to distinguish Bashley from the town centre.

NM15 – no change.

NM16 – no change.

NM17, 18 and 19 – retained.

NM20 – a policy can be included within NM20 to require minimum a of 20% canopy cover or to substitute with green walls / routes.

NM21 – Any new development needs to meet a greener design. The Local Plan will be looking at EPC. The question was raised among the party whether we would like to meet a higher standard than the Local Plan?

All agreed we would like to meet a higher standard than the Local Plan.

NM22 – links to design codes and original character statement, any new development enhances what is already in place. Part B will link into NM21 and refers to retrofitting.

NM23 – no change.

NM24 – to list sites outside of town centre.

NM25 – the area of special character policy will work alongside NM5 as the sites on the brownfield list fall within the area of special character – from the railway bridge down to Osbourne Road and the Memorial Centre.

3. Informal Public Engagement.

The working party signed off the engagement poster and advertising will appear in Focus Magazine, Prince's Publications, Advertiser and Times and local programmes. Further poster advertising will be sent out to community groups, supermarkets, schools and businesses. Drop-in sessions will be held at the Town Hall on the 14th and 15th March 2025. A timetable of attendance will be sent out to members. Mapping will be displayed at the drop-in sessions along with copies of the engagement packs. Laptops will be available for members to help residents access the Neighbourhood Plan online.

4. Engagement Pack

The working party signed off the engagement pack, a hard copy of which will be placed in the Library, Community Centre, Memorial Hall and Town Hall.

5. Survey Questions

The survey will consist of simple open questions for each policy and will be based online on the Neighbourhood Plans dedicated website. Comments will be collated and used to help shape the draft plan.

Date of next meeting – TBC

Meeting closed 4 pm.