

Agenda/Meeting Minutes

1. Purpose of Meeting

Desborough Town Plan Steering Group

Date of Meeting:	Wednesday 9 th November 2016 7.30pm	Location:	Desborough Heritage Centre
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2. Attendance at Meeting

Name	Name	Name	Name
Phill Conaty	James Putt	Pamela Goodman	Allan Matthews
Ray Brooks	Jane Pearce	Richard Turner	David Soans
Carry Murphy	Jon Phipps (arr. 8.03pm)		
Members of Public	Liz Berridge		

3. Apologies

James McKechnie			
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4. Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Apologies for absence
3. Lathams Introduction:- Who are Lathams, what's their involvement in the NP and how can they support the community?
4. Progress made to date:- How has the NP evolved following consultation and responding to the comments?
5. Steps moving forward:- How can the community move forward with the Neighbourhood Plan. Timetables, information gaps, decision making.
6. Further Actions:- Agreeing a course of action to move forwards with the Neighbourhood Plan
7. Any other business

Meeting Notes, Decisions, Issues

1) Welcome and introductions

Jane Pearce welcomed and introduced Mrs Laura Alvarez, the Urban Design Consultant from Lathams, Carry Murphy, Development Team Leader from KBC, and also Mrs Liz Berridge, a visiting member of the public.

2) Apologies

Mr James McKechnie, Clerk to Desborough Town Council

3) Report on progress by Laura Alvarez – Lathams Urban Design Consultant (Moved on to agenda point 4 at this point due to the amount of content needed to cover)

Lathams have been working very hard in analysing all the comments made on the Neighbourhood Plan by stakeholders, authorities, and members of the public.

This feedback has been used to formulate solutions on how the Neighbourhood Plan could be improved.

Key areas to change:-

- Improved legibility – Documentation not particularly intuitive and was hard to understand. Difficult to navigate contents.
- Needs clearer distinction between intention and policy.

Improvements made:-

- Content unchanged but structure altered to improve navigation.
- Improved content map, bolder graphics.
- Clearer description of Neighbourhood Plan process and timetable.

Suggestion that pictures from local artists might be included.

Cllr R Brooks: "Maybe add comments related to town vision from the artists along with their pictures?"

Additional section added, "Monitoring and Reviewing". Each Neighbourhood Plan needs to be reviewed using formula to make sure that it is consistent and you can measure how the plan is progressing.

To be added:- "Acknowledgements". Information to be provided by Steering Group as to people or groups they wish to thank.

Policies

General Issues:-

Some policies were repetitions of those found in other documents (e.g Joint Core Strategy, National Planning Policy Framework).

Some policies were more of a regional scale than local.

Solutions:-

Overlapping policies were removed.

Policies specific to Desborough were greatly strengthened.

Projects were revised to support the policies.

Design briefs with more specific design goals.

Housing:-

- Which sites have the Steering Group identified for housing development and what is their order of priority?
- Compliance with local character.
- Adherence to the Joint Core Strategy.
- Demonstration of robust community support for developments.

Cllr A Matthews:- “On the housing design, are we talking about the town boundary or parish boundary? There may be other sites available outside the town boundary”

Action:- To add additional details of the Section 106 for the Grange Phase 2 Development.

Nature:-

With each numbered policy, there is a project to support it.

Policy N1 – Hawthorns Site
Project – Bringing Hawthorns back into community use.

Action:- Map of Green Walks required

Heritage:-

Compliance with site specific codes to guide development.

Project – List of heritage assets.

Local economy:-

Two new projects instead of policies:-

- 1) “Ea” Business Start-ups:

Help identify suitable premises, sign posting of recruitment advice, business grants, and advisory services.

- 2) “Eb” Local market strategy:

Appraisal of available sites and market opportunities

Town Centre:-

Identifying sites suitable for food store and what conditions would need to apply.

Carry Murphy:- “There is an unmet demand for a food store either in Rothwell or Desborough, so it is up to Desborough to grasp the opportunity”.

Establish priority of sites, and the best way to build within them. Identify and mitigate the impact on local retail.

Community Infrastructure:-

Emphasis on need for additional infrastructure to match growth, but Plan does not specify how to achieve this.

Identify sites for education. A secondary school potentially requires about 10 hectares of land.

Jon Phipps (Lathams) arrives at 8:03pm

Desborough Site Review:-

Identify sites for

- Housing
- Schools
- Employment
- Food store

How could these be best developed?

The Neighbourhood Plan needs stronger sustainability – to demonstrate that the community aims for sustainability. Appraisal methods are available to strengthen the document in this regard.

Desborough Urban Design Framework – New Heart for Desborough:-

Character appraisal is a bit out of date and could do with strengthening. Needs reviewing and updating.

Timetable:-

Revised to include flexibility to account for processes that are not in control of the Steering Group.

New working schedule.

Need for new consultation period to take into account the changes made to the Plan.

Aiming for referendum of Neighbourhood Plan by October 2017.

4) Steps to move forward

- Approve new format of Plan
- Site identification – evaluated and appraised by NP Steering Group
- Gather remaining required evidence, particularly for Site Specific Codes
- Revise Character Review
- Refer to timetable
- Developing Neighbourhood plan to 'marry' with other elements such as Local Plan and Joint Core Strategy.
- Keep non-council members of the Steering Group up to date with housing allocation numbers.

5) Any other business

No other business

Meeting closed at 8:53pm