

Vision 2030 – Project Update April 2016 – The Working Groups

The seven Working Groups established under each of the Plan's objectives/themes (shown in bold below) started to meet at the end of 2015. The last three meetings of the Steering Group have received reports back from each of the Groups, the issues being identified and possible areas of overlap. The next meeting of the Steering Group will be asked to agree the deadlines for the completion of the work and agree where additional time and support may be needed.

This report provides a summary of the work undertaken to date. The intention is to make the findings of all the Working Groups available for comment, prior to commencing work on the next stage of the consultation.

Housing - help to ensure the provision of housing that the community needs, that is affordable and accessible to services, in appropriate locations and of good design. Convenor: Glenn Crawford

A Draft Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) is being finalised by the Group. This provides an area specific assessment of housing needs, in terms of numbers, types and tenure. This HNA covers the whole Neighbourhood Plan Area and the period up to 2031. The report looks at issues of affordability, housing shortage, an ageing population, supporting balanced population growth and making a community; design etc. It includes data and evidence collected from various local surveys.

Environment and Heritage - maintain, protect and enhance the unique nature, heritage, important features, character and environmental assets of the area. Convenor: Richard Nicholls

Issues being looked at include: Heritage and environment for each parish; WDDC landscape assessments/maps, producing local green places policies, emerging policies emphasising the need to manage development, protect the environment and enhance the area's special features. The aim is to bridge gaps in current policies and prioritise important green spaces

Climate Change - alleviate the impact of climate change, and minimise our own contribution to climate change, by developing renewable energy and encouraging efficient energy and resource use. Convenor: Raja Jarrah

Issues being looked at are: sustainable Housing, energy efficiency of commercial premises, need to progressively cut emissions and policies to pursue local development in ways that are consistent with that goal; and proposed cross cutting policies for all themes in the Plan. Also looking at flood risk prevention and adaptation; loss of green space; treatment of waste; transport and renewable energy.

Economy - facilitate the expansion of the local economy ensuring it is robust with high quality jobs and skills, maintain, protect and enhance the independent nature and vitality of our town centre and encourage sustainable tourism. Convenor: Caroline Parkins.

Looking at regeneration of St Michael's Estate, policies for expanding the local economy, protection for local independent shops, car parking, sustainable tourism policies, use of the riverside; taking account of regional economic plans; making a cohesive and welcoming town; re-generation of unused sites. The group is undertaking reviews of

training need, demands of existing businesses and looking at opportunities for young people.

Community Facilities - protect our excellent community facilities including education, health, cultural, sport and leisure facilities. To increase their range, availability, and accessibility. Convenor: Phyllida Culpin

Looking at a mapping exercise to identify existing provision across the Plan area working with Bridport Local Area Partnership to look at schools, health care, adult social care, needs of elderly population, support of the youth centre and provision for young people.

Transport - identify and promote alternative methods of transport, improve access for local residents and visitors and keep the area uncongested. Convenor: Richard Freer

Issues being looked at are: Traffic flows in the town centre; public transport; improving current and proposing alternative bus routes; incorporation of strategic bus-hubs -Bridport bus station- (Local hoppa routes have been discussed with Dorset County Council at the community bus meetings); Cycling and walking and the feasibility of a light rail system.

Land Use and Location - to ensure that sites that are needed for different land uses are selected to best meet the range of local needs identified in the Plan. A “Call for Land” has been issued asking landowners to come forward with proposals for alternative uses for land which could be for housing, employment, recreation etc.
Convenor: Andrew Leppard

Call for Land issued and two pieces of land came forward. Group looking at Strategic Housing Land Assessment produced by the District Council.

Next Steps

It is necessary to allow time for the working groups to complete their work and for time for their proposals to be considered prior to going out for consultation. The proposed revised timetable is

Stage 5 Build Evidence base	By end of April 2016
Stage 5 Engage with Service Providers and Developers on possible options	By end of May 2016
Stage 5 In Depth Community Consultation on Options	July - September 2016
Stage 5 Analyse and Produce a Consultation Report	By October 2016
Stage 6 and 7 Writing Policies and draft Plan	Nov-December 2016

It is likely, based on the experience of other Plans, that additional time needs to be allowed for inspection, further consultation and then the referendum. It is forecast that this would mean adoption Spring 2017 although this will need to be kept under review..

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