

DOWNHAM MARKET NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STRATEGY GROUP
NOTES OF MEETING HELD THURSDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 10:00AM

This was held as a Zoom video telephony meeting.

	Present:	ACTION
1	<p>Strategy Group Chair Cllr E Hendry Cllr J Westrop, Mr A Davy, Mrs J Davy and Mr R Warden Consultant Mr S Vincent Town Clerk Mrs E Oliver</p> <p><u>To receive Members' apologies for absence</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr Lawson, Cllr Pickering and Cllr Woodmin. Cllr Lightfoot and Mr K Loveday were not present.</p>	
2	<p><u>To receive Members' declarations of interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest</p>	
3	<p><u>To approve the notes of the meeting held on Thursday 06th August 2020</u></p> <p>The notes of the meeting held on Thursday 06th August 2020 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record.</p>	
4	<p><u>To discuss content and format of public consultation</u></p> <p>There was a discussion around question 39 (More Tourism will negatively affect the town) and whether people outside of the group will feel the Council do not want to support Tourism. Mr Vincent explained the purpose of the question. The aim is to show that people have read the whole document and not just answered positively to everything. It also activates the mind for the next question which is an open question and offers the reader the opportunity to consider their point of view.</p> <p>The Local Economy was discussed. It was recognised that support was required from the Borough Council to produce a Commercial Development Plan however it was agreed that the centre of the Town mainly focuses on Retail / Social employment with the employment zone being on the outskirts such as St Johns Business Park.</p> <p>There is a desire to support youth employment and starter careers.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Neighbourhood Plan should not support shops being converted into residential properties.</p> <p>Town Centre enhancements were discussed such as Traffic Flow and the widening of footpaths.</p> <p>Mr Vincent suggested that the design of properties should be discussed and agreed by the group in a future meeting.</p> <p>The infrastructure and rail links were discussed including the Ely Junction works.</p>	

	<p>It is agreed that broadband and mobile technology needs improvement within the area. It was accepted that 5G is coming to Downham Market however further information was required such as - are the providers looking to install fibre? A robust network is required to support social mobility and working from home.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure was discussed. Green corridors, wide strips of land, re-wilding of areas so fauna and flora flourish.</p> <p>It was agreed that the conservation area and the history of the town needed focus within the plan. Mr Vincent asked the group to consider whether the conservation area should be extended at a future meeting. Green plaques were also discussed.</p>	
5	<p><u>To continue with the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan</u></p> <p>Mr Vincent advised that that the examiners are still working and therefore continuing this work over zoom is beneficial. He advised that the Neighbourhood Plan could not be adopted prior to May 2021 as legislation is in place to prevent a Referendum before May 2021.</p> <p>Mr Vincent supports the use of online surveys, open zooms discussions, newspaper articles, Facebook information exchanges and postal surveys however is concerned that as there is no option for a face to face consultation members of the community may feel they have been excluded. The consultation must be accessible to all groups and without the option for face to face consultation the examiner may reject the consultation findings if a complaint was made.</p>	
6	<p><u>To agree next meeting</u></p> <p>Thursday 08 October 2020 at 10am.</p> <p>Mr Warden is to send out some information a week ahead of the next meeting for members to digest and then discuss at the meeting.</p>	
	Meeting closed: 11:03am	
	SIGNED	DATE