

Minutes of the meeting of Hungerford NP project team held on Wednesday 24th January 2024, 7pm in the Hub.

Present – Cllr Richard Hudson (RH), Cllr Helen Simpson (HS), Chris Scorey (CS), Cllr Jerry Keates (JK), John Ryder (JR), Denise Gaines (DG), and Town Clerk (TC)

1. **Note apologies** - Cllr Keith Carlson (KC), Cllr Alistair Fyfe (AF), Cllr Claire Winser (CW), Cllr James Cole (JC).
2. **Agree minutes of 17th November 2023** – RH proposed the minutes, seconded by DG, one abstention, rest in favour.

3. Update on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA).

A Teams meeting is scheduled with AECOM next Thursday when we hope to learn the outcome of the SEA consultation with the Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England. Our draft NDP is subject to minor amendments following the SEA and HRA. AECOM has produced a scoping report for the SEA to determine what will be included in the SEA. It contains some useful mappings. The scoping report was displayed on the interactive screen for all present to view. The SEA and HRA should be complete early to mid-February and could raise issues with the draft NDP. We should be able to give feedback on this. There is no scoping report for the HRA.

ACTION: TC to circulate the scoping report.

ACTION: TC or RH will give feedback to project team following the meeting with AECOM.

4. Consider requirements and arrangements for formal 6-week consultation.

Our main action at present is to prepare for Regulation 14 which can't be started until the SEA and HRA are complete. The anticipated start date of the consultation is 12th February which would then usefully include the Annual Town Meeting date of 20th March within its 6-week period.

Our consultant has suggested that it is not necessary to hold one-off events and instead we could have a display for the whole 6 weeks in the library. The interactive screen can be used to advertise it and PCs are available for public use if required. The consultation form inviting feedback should not be leading and should ask for the public to state their comments, suggested wording and policy amendments referring to page numbers and references within the plan.

It was decided to archive the H2036 website and use it for reference/evidence only. The HTC website will be used to host the consultation using google forms. Paper copies will also be available, and a drop-off box will be placed in the library. The Housing Consultation results and Draft NDP are already in the public domain and on HTC's website.

ACTION: A list of the statutory consultees has been requested from WBC.

ACTION: RH will draft wording for the consultation form.

ACTION: Posters with QR codes linking to the consultation form will be displayed in locations around town. The consultation will be advertised on-line and via newsletters and press, such as the Adviser, Penny Post and Newbury News.

5. **Review the timeline.** We are edging into 2025 for completion. Reasons include not knowing the exact date of the completion of the SEA or the likely timescales involved with Regulation 16 and the Referendum.

6. **Any other correspondence.** Acknowledgement from both the landowners of the preferred sites has been received. Further confirmation of the provision of allotments has been requested. One public complaint has been received which has been responded to.
7. **Next meeting date** – Wednesday 6th March 2024, 7pm in the Community Room, Fire Station

Meeting finished at 8pm