



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)

N Saunders – New Milton Heritage Society (NS)

Sue Larking – New Milton Residents Association (SL)

D Orme – Christchurch Cycling Club and New Milton Resident (DO)

C Rabbito –Town Development Manager (CR)

Apologies - T Elliott – Assistant Town Clerk (TE) J Stamper – New Milton Residents Association (JS)

1. AECOM site visit

AECOM’s site visit at the end of October sought technical advice on the town centre’s Masterplanning and Design Code. Advice taken from the report AECOM produce, will form an evidence base for the review. The report will bring insightful concepts as an external view. Comments can be made on the report and ideas within the report can be used to help with public engagement.

2. Draft Policy Schedule (Appendix 1)

LC explained the structure of the policy of modifications. As a live document that will evolve with evidence, there is a need to demonstrate existing wording against any new wording used in the NP policies. This allows us to show any policy wording changes we have agreed.

The Chair led the WP through the policy areas –

NM3 Land East of Caird Avenue – Class E is all encompassing (all classes) in place of what was originally Class A. The green infrastructure scheme will remain in the policy wording. Most of the policy wording may be removed to involve the design code from AECOM.

NM5 New Milton Town Centre Regeneration –originally in supporting text only, the wording can now be moved to policy wording to include the area of special character.

NM9 Business and Innovation Centre – to revisit.

NM10 Building of Local Heritage and Townscape Value – to include further reference to the area of special character. The consultant has produced an updated report on the area of special character to bring the area into the policy wording.

Unit 25 – 27, a retail unit (class Ea), was originally a post office and the reason New Milton was so named. There is a concern over architectural merit being lost. An area of special character protects the setting rather than the

actual building. In the future the district council may want to support an area of special character by further evidencing and classifying a conservation area. GB asked if a policy could stipulate reinstating the character of the building to a particular time. LC will investigate the achievability of this.

NM12 Walking and Cycling – further policy wording will be included to improve the network.

NM13 Barton on Sea – policy wording to include the design code work with AECOM.

NM14 The Rural Areas in the National Park – Policy wording to link in with walking and cycling.

NM15 Employment – The policy now includes employment sites.

New Policies

NM20 Biodiversity Net Gain – The policy includes clarification on biodiversity net gain.

NM21 Addressing the Performance Gap – awaiting update on future homes from central government.

NM22 Maintaining and enhancing the conservation area – this policy was requested early on to prevent the erosion of brownfield areas with regards to energy efficiency.

NM23 Local Shops – Local shops and parades have been identified and mapped.

NM24 Brownfield sites – Policy to include the brownfield sites.

3. Informal Public Engagement

Public engagement early in 2025. Correspondence will be sent to the landowners of the identified brownfield sites. The current report will be simplified on receiving responses.

4. Technical Packages - Locality

We have received further funding for two technical packages via Locality –

- Habitat Regulations Assessment
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

The TDM to apply for a Housing Needs Assessment technical package.

There is a need for affordable housing for all age groups within New Milton. Changes to the NPPF with regards to affordable housing, creates a need for an assessment.

5. Walking and Cycling

The TDM worked closely with local cycling groups to identify routes within New Milton as a response to Hampshire County Council's LCWIP. The TDM later looked to address walking routes and teamed walker and cyclist and New Milton resident David Orme, with local walker and New Milton Residents Association member Tony Sargeson to identify key walking routes that link Bashley, Town Centre and Barton on Sea. Responses were submitted to Hampshire County Council by David Orme. To be included in the NP.

Date of next meeting – 4th February 2025 2pm

Meeting closed 12.30 pm.