

Sherston Neighbourhood Plan Review Working Party

Here are the notes of the meeting of the working group, held on 4th June 2025 at 7.30:

Present:

- Martin Smith (MS)
- Mike Johnson (MJ)
- Kath Talboys (KT)
- Catherine Stephens (CS)
- Nigel Freeth (NF)
- Richard Skeffington (RS)
- Tanya Burgess (TB)
- Henreitta Cole (HC)
- Hollie Sturgess (HS)

Apologies:

- Jane Hirst (JH)

Previous Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting on 3rd March were approved.

Matters Arising:

- The focus of this meeting will be findings report prepared and presented by the consultants on the site options and following this planning the groups next steps of activity.

Report Findings:

- A site report was offered and had been previously circulated.
- There were 62 responses.
- Not all responders answered every question.
- It was discussed and agreed to the work to the current target of 30 new homes. Though there has been suggestion of an 80% uplift with changes in national government direction, this would be for the county and likely to be more urban targeted. It was deemed ok to have in the back pocket capacity for up to 50 should this reach be enforced and we have suitable sites; it is ok to have a consideration to succeed targets.
- Sites were assessed considering the criteria sent the group on 10/5/25. The criteria turned into questions, not based on the sites but the Neighbourhood Plans objectives. This allowing a fair assessment for each site. From this process then there will need to be discussions with the land downers.
- So will the site:
 - ✓ Support new or ensure no loss to community facilities.
 - ✓ Conserve or enhance the landscape (natural Cotswold landscape).
 - ✓ Increase businesses, up employment or enterprises, including agriculture.

- ✓ Meet housing requirements, sizes and tenure e.g. affordable housing (40%), or new self-builds (5% or more)
- ✓ Blend with the rural character and village identity, brownfield is always first but as noble available the least possible green belt.
- ✓ Support recreational activities, green spaces, views (key views have been identified).
- ✓ Complement sustainable transport, cycle routes, support walking, with accessible routes to the village that reduces the need for driving.
- ✓ Have adequate infrastructure for future residents, parking etc.
- ✓ Allow biodiversity and enhance geographical value; be that ancient woodlands, ponds or watercourse.
- ✓ Highlight heritage and cultural aspects, none designated heritage value as well as listed buildings and architectural impact.
- ✓ Reduce the impact of climate change, pollution, flooding, renewable energy.
- Assessment scores + 3 to – 3. Beneficial to challenges can't be mitigated. The consultants will send an example to help shape our discussions with landowners

Going forward

- The group was aware we are coming to the end of the current grant funding which support the help provided by the consultants. Future grants may not be open for a month or so. When they are, we will apply to carry on the work. The Parish Council also to be considered for initial support prior to grant access.
- Group members to start between now and August on the assessment process following the public consultation (questionnaire and village hall event) on:
 1. Non designated Heritage Assets (Catherine, Tanya and Kath).
 2. Green Spaces (Nigel and Martin).
 3. Key Views (Mike, Jane, Richard).
- The above groups to combine a list of the top agreed settings, screen against the criteria (they must meet at least 1 of the criterion) and take a picture; the consultants will send work sheets to undertake this process. The deadline for completion to be the end of August.
- Information to be uploaded on the PC website to ensure continued communication to the village.

Next Meeting- TBC 7.30, in the North Building.

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DRAFT Agenda for the meeting on TBC 7:30pm in the North Building

1. Apologies
2. Approval of minutes of the meeting 4th June 2025
3. Matters Arising from the minutes
4. Report back on activities MLP

5. Feedback group activity
6. AOB
7. Date of Next Meeting