HNP (Holt Neighbourhood Plan) Steering Group meeting

10/07/25

The Engine Room, The Glove Factory, Holt

12-1:30pm

Present

Joy Bloomfield, Bob Chequer, Tracey Dunn, Nigel Fox, Kate Learoyd, Martin Moyes, Sarah Pettitt, Steve Siddall, Vaughan Thompson, Lisa Wickes.

1. Introductions were made around the table.
2. Election of Chairperson. Kate Learoyd was elected Chairperson for this meeting.
3. Welcome. The Chairperson formally welcomed our new members; Bob Chequer, Tracey Dunn, Martin Moyes and Sarah Pettit. VT attended as an advisor and not as a member of the Steering Group.
4. Aims of the review and timeline.

Vaughan Thompson of Place Studio provided an overview.

* The existing NP (Neighbourhood Plan) is still valid and sits alongside the Wiltshire Council plan, until is superseded by the new revised edition.
* The plan needs to be brought up to date and align with the Wiltshire Council Core Strategy, covering the years 2026-2036/41. It needs to reflect a long-term vision, be sound in planning and legal terms, and should revise, update and add to the existing HNP.
* The existing plan is available to read on the Holt PC website.

<https://holtparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Oct-2016-Holt-Neighbourhood-Plan-Final-2016-20261.pdf>

New developments since then include the Tannery, Star Ground, Bewley and Redcliffe, (to be approved and completed).

* Visions and objectives need to be reviewed after consultation with the community.

Policies need to match the community vision and be supported by evidence; and this should reflect the policies of both Wiltshire Council and wider National policies. KL expressed concern that the Wiltshire Council Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework are not yet agreed. There is hope that these will be agreed by next year.

* VT noted that under the NPPF Paragraph 14 a Neighbourhood Plan that is less than 5 years old and makes allocations for housing which meets its identified housing targets has greater weight in planning law, making a community less likely to be targeted for unwanted development. This can be a reason for making appropriate housing allocations under the plan. KL noted that Holt did not have any identified housing allocation under the current draft Wiltshire Local Plan, and provided this did not change, a reviewed NP would still provide the extra protection of Paragraph 14. VT recommends beginning a process that identifies those who might be interested in developing their owned land. KL suggested a decision on whether we allocate additional housing should be guided by community feedback and the Steering Group.
* Topics need to be updated. MM stressed that conformity with all structure plans is important, to add weight. Look at all up to date policies, and other NP’s. Action all.
* Input from residents, the community and the champions of specific topics is vital, and further research can be obtained from outside sources to inform.
* Traffic is the main concern, reflected in our community event last December, and this is particularly relevant when considering new developments.
* Local green spaces could be expanded from those listed in the existing HNP, adding the lakes and surrounding field areas, and the small holding in the field on Leigh Road or other areas based on consultation.

VT suggests following the following formal process: -

* CRITERIA POLICIES
* ALLOCATE LAND FOR POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT
* DESIGNATE LOCAL GREEN SPACES
* IDENTIFY LOCAL SIGNIFICANT HERIITAGE ASSESTS
* EXPLORE AREAS OF CONSERVATION INTEREST

MM stated that traffic was the main concern of the existing HNP and the proposed improvements have not been addressed since its publication; the link between the NP, the Steering Group and the PC needs to improve to facilitate some sort of future change. VT describes this as “unrealised policies”, and in future, suggests delivering it as a “project”, rather than a “policy”.

The crucial partner in any project delivery is Wiltshire Council.

TD stated that that Holt VC Primary School needs to publish a Traffic Plan, as that will add weight to any traffic management proposals. The school needs to be on board with this.

1. Funding issues.

Expected funding has recently been withdrawn by central government.

VT stated that the baseline for assistance for a NP cost is £6k.

SS suggested asking Holt PC for some funding and this will be addressed at the next scheduled PC meeting in September. Could CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) monies be used?

VT will produce an illustrative costing, a fee proposal. The costs could be spread over two years. A funding decision needs to be made in September 2025.

1. Discuss the survey format and questions.

* An online form is in draft format, to be circulated to the Steering Group for feedback. VT had suggested aligning the survey to the existing Holt NP.
* Help will be offered to those who do not want to complete an online form, such as a paper format, a phone survey, personal assistance and availability of officers at community events.
* KL noted that many residents may access the form on a smart phone which meant that shorter questions displayed better and were easier to read.
* All to review the current HNP and comment on the draft questionnaire.

Subject headings and allocated members of the group as follows: -

TRAFFIC Tracey Dunn

COMMERCIAL Sarah Pettit

ENVIRONMENTAL AND GREEN ISSUES Bob Chequer

PLANNING AND HOUSING Lisa Wickes

COMMUNITY & HERITAGE ASSETS Joy Bloomfield

Community Engagement

This needs to be at the front end of the consultation process and SP has experience of this, so can lead. This will build a resource plan and feed into the consultation statement/strategy.

1. All to familiarise themselves with the current HNP in detail, and conduct associated research, in preparation for the next meeting which will be in September, date to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 1:30pm.