

NDP2: Natural Environment Theme Group – Meeting 1

Wednesday 2 October, 18.00, Zoom

Attendees: Wendy Andrews (Chair, JPC), Josh Niderost (Natural Environment lead), Carol Spires.

1. Apologies

- Roger Cooper and John Latham

2. Declarations of Interest

- None

3. Review of Set Up Arrangements

- Discussed that the NDP 2 has 5 theme groups (Housing, Community, Economy, Built Environment and Natural Environment)
- Each has specific topics where we need to consider what we would like to keep from the current NDP and where we might want to make changes.
- The intention is to have an interim report by the end of December 2024 and we need to provide updates to the monthly all Advisory Group NDP 2 meetings on this theme.
- It will be necessary to meet regularly to progress work and develop policy in our relevant areas.

4. Discussion of Existing Made Plan

- There was extensive discussion about the current NDP and Natural Environment theme. This included:
- The statements and policies have to be clear, understandable and achievable.
- The need to update references to international and national policies. For example, in relation to climate change and hedgerows.
- Carbon neutrality and a ULEZ scheme
- The connection between the Natural Environment and social resilience and its meaning.
- The potential for local suppliers being employed in developer supply chains.
- The potential impact of agricultural covenants.
- It was noted that flooding policy would be a major feature of this theme, considering recent floods, their impact and the concern about this issue amongst the community. We need to understand the latest flood mapping and implications.
- Further discussions took place on some of the specific NDP2 topics:
- **Protection of specific sites through designations such as ‘Local Green Space’:** The current NDP outlines five Designated Local Green Spaces in the Community theme. These are: *Allotments gardens to west of the railway line; Jubilee Park; Riverlands; Littleworth; and Memorial Sports Ground.*

- It was discussed that these assets should likely remain Local Green Spaces, although there was a question as to whether the allotments may move.
- Which areas should be classified Local Green Spaces would be a good question to engage with the wider community on.
- **Areas of Separation:** These are areas of land set aside to demarcate different settlements. There is no policy on areas of separation in the current NDP.
- It was discussed how some features like the Memorial Sports Ground (a designated community asset) already acted to create an area of separation.
- However, it may be beneficial to classify other areas, such as the area west of the railway line as an area of separation to align with community views about the settlement boundary.
- **Wildlife corridors:** There is currently no policy on wildlife corridors in the made NDP. However, there is likely to be merit in developing a policy. For example, there are areas that the High School and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust will likely view as a wildlife corridor. For example, [Henley Sidings](#).
- This would be a good question to engage with the wider community on.
- **Biodiversity:** There is currently no policy on biodiversity in the made NDP. However, there is likely to be merit in developing a policy.
- We need to understand what this looks like for Henley & Beaudesert, what this would include and the role of the Green Belt and Mount in this policy area.
- Further question as to whether there needs to be a policy on the Green Belt and Mount in the NDP.
- May be useful to engage with bodies like Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Heritage England and Archaeology Warwickshire on this and other topics.
- **Important views:** There was agreement that the current valued views should be maintained. These are: *Flood Plain Area looking South East from William James Way towards the Mount; Looking South East from William James Way towards the Mount; The Mount summit Looking North West over North Henley; The Mount summit Looking North over the Tree Plantation; View down to the Southern Entrance in Beaudesert Lane along the Heart of England & Millennium Way with May's wood on the horizon.*
- The document behind these current important views is no longer accessible online and we will need to update the link.
- There may be other views that we will need to consider for inclusion, as this is quite a small list. For example, Liveridge Hill. This would be a good question to engage with the wider community on.
- May be useful to engage with bodies like Heritage England on this topic.
- It was agreed to discuss the other Natural Environment topics at the next meeting.

5. Next Steps

All: Further thinking about the Natural Environment theme, particularly the specific topics that we didn't get to discussing.

JN: Contact Warwickshire Wildlife Trust re Wildlife Corridors

JN: Contact Henley High School re Wildlife Corridors

JN: Contact Clerk re latest flooding docs.

6. Date of next meeting

- TBC – to be decided via email.
- Next meeting to be held in person at Wendy Andrew's offices.