

Unconfirmed **Minutes of Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**  
**Thursday 6th February 2020, 7 pm, Old Library KMC**

**Present:** Sally Cooke (chair), George Armstrong, Chris Mervik, John Mayo, Julie Martin, Mitch Stone, Mary Brennan (notes)

**In attendance:** David Taylor (Dorset County Councillor), until 7.50 pm  
Rodney Alcock, Linda Poulsen (STAND)

**Apologies:** Liz Crocker, Ruth Kirby, Michael Clarke, Andy Stillman, Theo Hawkins

1. Minutes of Meeting of 5th December 2019 (date corrected) were agreed.
2. Matters arising. The meeting with Paul Derrien (affordable housing) has not happened yet. It was proposed that he be invited to a future SNP meeting.

**Action: Andy** (in his absence)- to invite Paul Derrien to attend SNP steering group

3. David Taylor briefed the meeting about current Dorset Council views on housing plans. He explained that the council is still in a state of flux due to the major re-organisation and that it will be May 2021 before the final structures are settled in.

It is clear that Dorset needs more housing to meet demand and a new town/ Garden Village is still the likely preference. David was categorical that the previously DOR 15 proposal for 3000+ houses north of Dorchester was rejected by the council principally because the road and other infrastructures are inadequate and there are no plans (nor funds) for highway development in this area. No decisions have been made about a new proposed site but it is likely to be in North Dorset (west of Gillingham). The council is in the process of land swapping council owned land to identify possible sites.

George reported that a meeting had been held in the last week between Council Planners and Parish Councils to get feed back about the council's new 3 tier model of settlement hierarchy. The Parish Councillors were informed that any new developments were to be on existing settlement sites of more than 500 residents with sustainable infrastructures and good transport connections. This group was told that DOR 15 was considered as connected to Dorchester rather than Stinsford.

David assured the group this was not the council's view and that DOR 15 would not progress.

There is uncertainty about the use of government funds obtained specifically for DOR 15 Garden Village scheme. Andy has raised a query with the council officers about the use of this money.

David asked what the SNP group is proposing for future housing developments in the parish. Sally explained that it was a 'chicken and egg' situation because of DOR15. Our plans were based on the premise that if the council brings a strategic proposal for North of Dorchester we will have to live with it. We attempted to find out what residents want in the rest of the parish.

David said that Dorset is not currently meeting 5 year housing supply requirements – currently 4.2 years, but should be more than 5. At present there are no formal plans accepted by the council but there are individual ideas and proposals under discussion.

George suggested that the parish council could use a freedom of information request to ask what proposals exist. **Action George**

In his absence, Andy had asked for some questions to be put to David Taylor

Q1 There are rumours that the Dorchester Waste Transfer site is to be re-located. If so, is Stinsford being included in the search area for a new site. David reported that the waste facility is to be relocated as it is polluting and inadequate but said that Stinsford was not included in the area

of search for a new site. He was unable to say what sites are being considered He would be able to get more information if e mailed outside the meeting. **Action Sally to email David Taylor**

Q2 If Dorset Council were to work up the DOR 15 proposal what is the council's attitude to development trusts? David replied that the council already had a Development Trust in Dorchester but that no other trusts had been thought through. If created, they would be limited to the local community.

David was asked how the council viewed the Kingston Maurward College (KMC)Plans. He acknowledged that KMC plans are ambitious and that the college is of great importance to the county as the population is expanding and educational needs are growing. The college can work with the Enterprise Partnership to provide some of the required funding but LEPs have no planning powers.

George explained that the college requires a flow of capital from housing development to fund proposed developments and to resolve cash flow issues. However, as the college proposals would not meet the council's criteria for developments, i.e., in settlements of more than 500 people with sustainable infrastructures and communications it is not possible to 'square the circle' unless the council makes an exception for KMC.

Sally thanked David for attending the meeting and for his briefing. He offered to answer any further questions and invited people to contact him directly if they wanted.

David's contact details : [cllr david.taylor@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr david.taylor@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) 07905 352710

4. Linda Poulsen from STAND informed the group that the bid for Garden Village includes facilities for household recycling. The bid was very specifically for DOR 15. The Civic Society and many others are infuriated by the obfuscation and have come out very clearly against DOR 15.

Linda provided information and flyers for walks around Dorchester and a Hedgehog training day. These will be displayed on the parish notice boards. Sally thanked Linda for her attendance and information. **Action George-** leaflets to be given to Kirsty for display.

5. AOB

A) Sally tabled her work to consolidate the information gathered in the Residents' Survey. Please check through and send comments/ feedbacks to Sally within the next week **Action ALL** (electronic version attached)

B) Chris proposed that he make initial contact with Jo W to see if she is willing to take on the writing our Neighbourhood Plan to find about 'ingredients', process, timescale, and costs. Proposal agreed.

At present the SNP steering group has no funds but it would make sense to bid for a grant to support the writing of the plan and the referendum process. **Action Chris** - contact Jo W

C) Future of the group.

Sally has informed the group that she will be stepping down as chair of the group after the March meeting. George thanked her on behalf of SNP steering group for her tremendous work in driving the SNP process forward and the enormous amount of materials she has worked on.

Those present were not able to take on the role of chair. George will ask those who are attending the Parish Council meeting on Monday and if no volunteers are forthcoming, Sally will contact other group members. George will draft an item for the Pilot to seek some new blood. Mary agreed to continue as secretary but sent apologies for the next 2 meetings. **Action George/Sally**

**Date of next meeting** Thursday March 5th KMC Old Library.