

Tarporley Neighbourhood Plan Review – Update April 2021

Tarporley Parish Council agreed to review the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) in September 2019 and set up a Working Group (NPWG). Current members of that working group are: Toni Burke, Michael George, Catherine Helm, Gordon Pearson, Nigel Taylor and Peter Tavernor

Meetings have been held between NPWG representatives and CWAC Council to understand the process for review and changes to the NP and in particular what extent of change would necessitate resident consultation, planning inspection and referendum.

From this, it was proposed to update the NP in two stages. Firstly, to quickly bring the NP up to date and make more relevant, by referencing current local council and government policies in order to strengthen its weight in planning decisions but without needing another referendum. Secondly, to make a more thorough, considered and consultative review of the NP with a view to introducing new policies to guide development that meets residents' aspirations. Subsequently, it has become less clear whether this 2 stage approach would attract funding support and we await further clarification on this point.

The Parish Council has secured funding to employ a consultant, Louise Kirkup (who assisted with production of the original NP) to undertake a technical review of the plan to advise where it needs to be updated to be consistent with the latest NPPF and CWAC Local Plan. The first stage of that review is complete.

Nigel Taylor and Gordon Pearson have assessed LK's review and recommendations for the first 2 of 4 sections of the NP Policies and suggested comments as to what changes are proposed, agreed or not. LK has confirmed that these comments would be sufficient (once approved by the WG and PC) for her to proceed to update the NP text. A copy of the comments is in the PC meeting documents.

The Parish Council has also secured grant funding for production of a "Village Design Code" by an independent consultant – Elliot Jodrell of Aecon. This would supersede the Village Design Statement (which was from 2003) and parts of the NP and then the Village Design Code would be incorporated into the revised NP. By including the Village Design Code, within the revised NP, this fits with the direction of travel in the Governments' review of planning law and the anticipated role of NPs.

Next steps will include:

- Continue to review and respond to LK's review and recommendations.
- NPWG to agree response to LK.
- LK to provide updated NP text for review and agreement by NPWG and PC
- NPWG to discuss proposed changes with CWAC to ensure compatibility.
- NPWG and PC to interact with the Village Design Code production.
- When PC happy with proposed changes, move to consultation/inspection as appropriate.

Gordon Pearson
6-4-21