

Droitwich Spa Town Council

Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Project – Report on Progress (3) December 2022 to February 2023.

Agenda Item 7 of the Meeting of Full Council – 23rd January 2023.

Positive momentum has been maintained since mid- December 2022. Key points include the following.

1. The Drafted Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) has been produced and received from AECOM on 10th January 2023. The HNA is a substantial and technical document providing factual background evidence for the NDP. The Consultant is working to provide comments and feedback of a detailed evidence-based perspective (This is not policy orientated). The protocol is for the Consultants draft response to such documents to be provided for Officers to then respond to AECOM.
2. Further engagement has taken place with AECOM on 12th January 2023 to progress the Technical Support work stream for Design Codes. AECOM have assigned their Regional Design Director (Urban Design) based in Manchester to support taking this forward. The contact has experience with this area having undertaken similar work in Kidderminster and Bromsgrove recently.
3. In addition to point 2 dialogue is being taken forward with the Senior Architectural Designer working with “Create Streets” on a new Design Code for the District for WDC. Initial discussion take place on 16th January and it is hoped to align the WDC initiative with the NDP project for the Town Council.
4. A third NDP Steering Group meeting takes place at St Richards House on 26th January 2023. The agenda covers the following points,
 - (a) An update of the two progressing Technical Support work streams being taken forward with AECOM so far – these being – Design Codes and Housing Needs Assessment. Noted that work for the Site Assessments is anticipated to start in the New Year (Work package NP3).
 - (b) A general update from the Consultant of the work packages to date.
 - (c) Part of work package NP2 for the Residents Questionnaire Survey is now being prepared. An integral part of this is a Communications Strategy. With this regard to recap on the separate meeting which took place for the Consultant & Town Clerk on 30th November 2022.
 - (d) An update of changes and enhancement works resolved in December for the Town Council website - in order to enable that NDP project content can be integrated during 2023. The web site service provide has indicated that work should be completed through January to enable digital content to start being added.
 - (e) To confirm that the arrangements for free access to the Ordnance Survey Data Hub and connected Members Portal for mapping and documents has been arranged week commencing 3rd January 2023.
 - (f) To confirm arrangements and forward publicity for the anticipated public launch event for the NDP on Monday 13th March 2023. This is to be part of the Town Meeting date arrangements.