

**Minutes of
Wells Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting held on
Tuesday 9th March 2021**

Present:

Wells City Cllr Adrian I'Anson

Graham Barrow, Simon Nash & Rosemary Naish

St Cuthbert Out Parish Council: Ian Humphreys

Planning consultant: Stuart Todd

County Cllr Tessa Munt

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Jenny Rust
2. Minutes of the meeting on 9th February 2021 - approved
3. Draft Environment policy

AFI'A said that the list of protected spaces in NE3 could extend to not only those areas mentioned in the text i.e. Tor Wood (in the NP area) and adjacent – Underwood, King Castle Wood and Park Wood (east and west) but also Walcombe Arboretum

Stoberry Park

Milton Park

Tor County Wildlife Site & the railway cutting at Portway.

IH confirmed that it is realistic to identify corridors which lead from the NP area in to St Cuthbert Out Parish.

Rosemary Naish said that it was excellent and that we need to go for the maximum as you can guarantee that the Examiner will water it down. There should be an appendix with a list of approved species. The date stamp should be left on the photos. There should be as many photos and plans as possible including drone photos. Care should be taken to acknowledge copyright.

Simon Nash queried how "stretching" we can be. He raised the issue of waterways which need to be referred to in the Plan as does water quality and the risk of pollution from sewage outlets. We need to be ambitious in terms of climate change effect, doubling or trebling to compensate for lost trees, SUDS, native species. A plan and policy relating to the waterways should be added. SN referred to "Trout in the Town – Theo Pike" and "Is My River Fit to Play In?" The tension is between ambition and the ability to influence developers. We need to re-introduce the Dark Skies policy.

Stuart Todd responded that we should push as hard as we can but that it is the policy that counts. We should seek a dialogue with Wessex Water/Environment Agency who may have thoughts similar to ours. We need to find out what targets they have. We also need to talk to Mendip Development Control officers as they are the interface with developers.

4. Update on Local Listings and Local Green Spaces

AFI'A reported on his discussions with Rob Palmer of MDC and David Stuart of Historic England which will lead to progress.

5. Next meeting – 13th April at 7 pm by Zoom