

**MINUTES OF THE
DEVELOPMENT PLAN WORKING GROUP
HELD ON MONDAY 10 JANUARY 2022 @ 2.00pm**

PRESENT:

Councillor Alison Brown (Chair)	Nicola Hopkins
Councillor Judith Clark	Colin Hirst
Councillor Richard Sherras	John Macholc
Councillor Louise Edge	

APOLOGIES - None received.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2021 were approved as a correct record.

CURRENT POSITION

There was no draft consultation paper yet as there were consultancy reports outstanding that were being chased up. This was a critical year and we cannot afford to get too far behind with the timetable.

EVIDENCE BASE

Some documents have been to committee and been signed off already. The following ones are still required –

- Open Space – quite close to completion. We have not lost any space but gained some sites. We are looking to add ‘open space standard’. This paper often gets challenged by Sport England as a statutory objection. We don’t want to spend on an extensive survey.
- Economic Study/Employment Land undertaken by Litchfields. Still assessing this paper – the pressure point is employment land. There are suggestions of sites in the document that members need to see before the consultation document is pulled together. It supports the view of the Turleys report on strategic housing land supply that we may need more housing to reflect economic activity.
- Sustainability study – this was finished before Christmas by JBA but has not been received yet. There are 4 statutory consultee responses that need to be included.
- SHELA – still required. We know we don’t have a massive shortfall of land – need to watch the timeframe.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSIONS

- Housing numbers – scenarios – National Policy says to use standard methodology which means we still have a significant land supply – but anticipate challenges will bring forward other sites which will need to be evidenced by challenger and considered by the Council. If we get challenged in the consultation, then we know we have sites to look at. From a land capacity viewpoint we are also aware that sites may come forward as planning application sites through developer activity.
- Transport issues – patterns and sustainability – not much opportunity to move away from settlement hierarchy – other than exceptions.

- Climate Change – limited mitigation measures to be taken if expanding places that aren't accessible or sustainable.

Members expressed the desire to build more flexibility in to enable expanding some villages. Also, to consider the expectation of energy efficiency measures (although there is no legislation to back this up as a requirement in planning terms).

The view was expressed that it would be good to see something about increasing transport to villages via bus services rather than extension of the rail line to Hellifield.

Questions were asked about a proposed tram link from Preston to Longridge; how the 'call for sites' was conducted; and more details about the timetable for the Plan.

Colin Hirst informed members that he intended to get the Reg 18 draft document for consultation to committee in February 2022 for members approval meaning slippage against programme would be minimal.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be scheduled when required.

The meeting closed at 3.00pm