

Joint Working Group for Crossways and Moreton - Second Meeting

13th December 2016 - Dorset County Council

Minutes

Attendees:

Trevor Badley (TB) – DCC Minerals
Mike Garrity (MG) – DCC Planning
Andy Canning (AC) – DCC councillor
Alan Thacker (AT) – WDDC councillor
Nigel Bundy (NB) – WDDC councillor
Peter Wharf (PW) – PDC and DCC councillor
Laura Miller (LM) – PDC councillor
Trevor Warrick (TW) – WDDC Planning
Anna Lee (AL) – PDC Planning
Steve Tapscott (ST) – PDC Planning

1. Apologies.

Cllr Cherry Brooks (PDC councillor).

2. Minutes of last meeting and any matters arising.

Minutes were agreed. PW would like them forwarded to Richard Drax MP.

Action: MG to forward meeting minutes to Richard Drax.

3. Agreement of Terms of Reference for the Group.

AL ran through the key aspects of the terms, making clear that the purpose of the working group is information sharing and not decision taking.

The chair of the group will be chosen at the next meeting.

The group saw value in including parish council chairs and the terms should be amended to reflect this.

Action: AL to make the following amendments to the terms of reference: paragraphs 2 and 5 to include parish chairs; paragraph 6 to confirm that substitutes cannot be nominated; paragraph 12 to delete 'unanimous' and replace with 'consensus', and to make it clear that the Parish Council Chairs will be entitled to vote (subject to the stipulation that the Working Group has no executive powers and its decisions cannot prejudice decisions taken by the constituent planning authorities or their elected members); delete paragraph 13.

4. Communication with Parish Councils.

The group agreed it is the responsibility of the parish chairs to feedback to their Councils.

5. Traffic Assessment Report – key findings

TB presented the non-technical aspects of the report. He summarised the five scenarios tested, which include existing quarry traffic. There are two studies: the first tests the inter-peak

period (more associated with quarry traffic) and the second tests the AM peak (more commuter traffic).

Conclusions are that all AM peak and inter-peak forecast models performed well and generally showed no signs of excessive queuing or deterioration of vehicle speeds (increasing congestion) in any scenario – except at the A35/A352 junction near Max Gate Roundabout, predicted to reach 94% capacity in Scenario 5. Further work is needed to assess impacts of the lights at the shuttle-working traffic signals at the railway bridge over Highgate Lane. All scenarios exhibited increases in traffic which could cause some additional queuing at the Moreton and Woodsford Level Crossings.

PW asked why the low growth scenario tests 500 dwellings, when PDC consulted on 350. AL explained that as the modelling tests a higher number, 350 dwellings are therefore covered by default.

AC raised concerns over development at Dorchester, which has not been factored into the reports. TW said that surveys will be carried out in spring by the same team. They will be able to correlate it with the Crossways / Moreton study.

NB pointed out that the Silverlake development includes a new road which by-passes the Woodsford level crossing, which Network Rail will contribute towards, as it would be more cost-effective than carrying out its own upgrades.

TB raised the question of how to treat the reports. TW said WDDC/WPBC needs them for the evidence base to support the councils' issues and options consultation in February. MG said that other councils will need to be clear that it is published evidence and they are not accepting representations on it.

The group felt that the non-technical summary is still very technical.

Action: TB to use bullet points on his slide presentation as the basis for a non-technical summary, most likely to introduce the study on Dorset For You.

6. Updates of Local Plan progress

- Purbeck District Council (Anna Lee)

AL explained that PDC consulted on options for the Partial Review of the Purbeck Local Plan Part 1 in summer 2016 and received a high response rate. Representations raised concerns about the housing number and the majority did not support the proposed allocations strategy.

The consultation report has identified a number of key actions that arose. These include updating the SHMA and producing an environmental and infrastructure capacity study. Overall, the additional work will delay the plan by around a year, which could increase the risk of receiving more speculative applications.

PW added that the Council is also undertaking an independent review of the whole process so far.

- Dorset County Council (Trevor Badley)

TB said that DCC is working on a Draft Mineral Sites Plan which will, among other things, identify the sites required to deliver the 2014 Minerals Strategy. The sites plan will also identify

an aggregates areas of search, as a safety net to add flexibility, should allocations not come forward or contain less mineral than anticipated.

Originally, the target was adoption in late 2017. However, the plan is being produced in tandem with the Waste Plan Review. A further focussed consultation on the Waste Plan Review is required, which will delay Publication and subsequent stages of both plans.

- West Dorset District Council (Trevor Warrick)

TW provided the background that the councils needed to identify more housing. This equates to around 4,520 new homes by 2036. The local plan inspector said a long term strategy is needed for Dorchester and Sherborne and sites need to be identified. The inspector saw merit in Crossways sites.

So far, the councils have undertaken a 360° search around every settlement and identified potential areas of search. Those being taken forward to issues and options could deliver around 20,000 homes, so there is a genuine choice available.

In addition, the councils are undertaking a SHLAA update and other landscape, heritage and transport studies.

Issues and options is timetabled for February 2017 and adoption in 2019.

7. Any Other Business

PW felt that parish councils should be made aware of the meeting.

Action: MG to write to Crossways and Moreton Parish Council chairs to notify them that the meeting has taken place; to expect minutes and terms of reference when finalised; and invite them to the next meeting.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The group provisionally arranged the next meeting for 2.30pm, 7th March 2016 at County Hall. **However, this date will now need to be rearranged due to clash with a Local Plan consultation event in Crossways. Action: PDC to arrange new date.**