



SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

2018

Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee



Adopted 23rd July 2019

23/01/2018

SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Shaftesbury Town Council took the decision to produce a Neighbourhood Plan at its meeting on 18th July 2017.
- 1.2 In order to produce this plan, the Town Council will establish an Advisory Committee to oversee a process that will result in the preparation of a draft plan which will be put to a public referendum. In doing so it is deemed appropriate that the Advisory Committee is provided with and accept the following terms of reference.
- 1.3 Shaftesbury Town Council has advised North Dorset District Council of the intent of the residents of Shaftesbury Town, in consultation with other stakeholders, to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and the Town Council will be the body that formally submits the Neighbourhood Plan to North Dorset District Council.
- 1.4 The plan will seek to:
- 1.5 Identify all the important aspects of life in the Town for which are to be considered in planning for the future
- 1.6 Bring forward proposals which will enhance the quality of life in the Town in the years to come.
- 1.7 Provide a framework for future land usage within the Town.

2 Membership

- 2.1 The Advisory Committee will be formed from residents and the local business community under the same qualifying criteria set out for becoming a local councillor. Elected members of Shaftesbury Town Council may also be members of the Advisory Committee.
- 2.2 The Advisory Committee shall extend until the Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed and approved by the independent examiner. The Advisory Committee shall pass the draft neighbourhood plan to Shaftesbury Town Council for approval prior to independent examination. If the Advisory Committee is holding any funds at this time or if the Advisory Committee is disbanded prior to the neighbourhood plan being approved and is holding funds such funds shall be paid to the Town Council unless otherwise directed by an organisation from which the funds were obtained.
- 2.3 The Advisory Committee will consist of a maximum of 12 members of the community
- 2.4 If a member of the Advisory Committee fails to attend 3 consecutive Advisory Committee meetings the member will be deemed to have resigned from the Advisory Committee unless otherwise agreed by the Advisory Committee. This provision does not prevent any member from resigning from the Advisory Committee by providing the Chairman with written notice of their resignation.

- 2.5 The membership of the Advisory Committee shall be reviewed and confirmed by the Town Council on a quarterly basis.
- 2.6 Any person who wishes to become a member of the Steering Group after the commencement of the Neighbourhood Planning process shall apply to the Advisory Committee who shall resolve whether they shall be admitted to the Advisory Committee. If it is resolved that the individual shall be admitted to the Steering Group, the Town Council shall ratify as it sees fit the individuals membership at the next quarterly review.
- 2.7 The Steering Group may form Working Groups or sub committees to undertake various aspects of the work involved in producing the Neighbourhood Plan. These working groups will be subservient to the Advisory Committee and act under its instructions, adhering to the same terms of reference.
- 2.8 The Local planning Authority is obliged to provide assistance under Localism Legislation.

3 Roles and Responsibilities

The members of the Advisory Committee will:

- 3.1 Promote the process of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan, be encouraged to participate and provide their views and opinions on the specific topics which are covered during the preparation of the Plan.
- 3.2 Arrange meetings and appoint sub groups to gather views and consult on emerging policies which are considered appropriate for incorporation in the draft Plan.
- 3.3 Assess existing evidence about the needs and aspirations of the Town.
- 3.4 Liaise with relevant organisations and stakeholders to secure their input in the process
- 3.5 Analyse the results of questionnaires or other evidence received during the planning process and use them to prepare a robust draft Plan
- 3.6 Inform the Town Council of progress at each Full Council meeting in order that Advisory Committee/Working Group minutes can be noted.
- 3.7 Provide a membership report quarterly
- 3.8 Support the local planning authority and Shaftesbury Town Council during the referendum process

4 Roles and Responsibilities

The Town Council will:

- 4.1 Support the preparation of the Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan providing sufficient assistance and financial resources to ensure the plan is prepared expeditiously providing that overall expenditure falls within the budget allocated by the Council.
- 4.2 Facilitate, if required, contact with the relevant statutory bodies or parties who must be consulted during the plan making process

- 4.3 Carry out all statutory duties contained with the Neighbourhood planning (General) regulation 2012 and engage with North Dorset District Council during the referendum process of the plan for which the principle authority is responsible.
- 4.4 Following the preparation of the draft plan, and with the agreement of the Group, submit the plan to the Local Planning Authority for inspection and independent examination.
- 4.5 All Members of the Advisory Committee and any sub committees formed will:
- 4.6 Declare any personal interest that may be perceived as being relevant to any decisions or recommendations made by the group. This may include membership of an organisation, ownership of interest in land (directly or indirectly) or a business or indeed any other matter likely to be relevant to the work undertaken by the Advisory Committee .
- 4.7 Ensure that there is no discrimination in the plan making process and that it is a wholly inclusive, open and transparent process to all groups in the Town and to those wishing to undertake development or be involved in the plan making process.
- 4.8 Work together for the benefit of the communities established within the Town. Treat other members of the Group with respect and dignity, allowing members to express their views without prejudice and interruption.

5 Quorum

- 5.1 The Advisory Committee shall be quorate when one third or 4 members (whichever is the greater) are present

6 Voting

- 6.1 Any decisions taken by the Advisory Committee other than those delegated to appointed officers, will be carried if the majority (more than 50%) are in favour at any given meeting. The Chairman shall have the casting vote where the vote is equal.

7 Advisory Committee Chairman and Secretary

- 7.1 The Advisory Committee shall elect a Chairman and Deputy Chairman from their number.
- 7.2 An officer of Shaftesbury Town Council will fulfil the role of Secretary
- 7.3 If the Chairman is not present, the Deputy Chairman shall take the meeting. If neither is present, members shall elect a Chairman for the meeting from amongst their number

8 Frequency, Timing and procedure of Meetings

- 8.1 The Advisory Committee will usually meet monthly although sub groups may meet more frequently as necessary.
- 8.2 The Advisory Committee and its sub groups shall keep minutes of meetings which will be open to public scrutiny. These will be publicised on the Neighbourhood Plan website
- 8.3 Notices, Agendas, Minutes and associated papers will be emailed where possible to all current Steering Group members and all Shaftesbury Town Councillors and officers.

- 8.4 Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with set procedure to be determined and agreed by the Steering Group.
- 8.5 These Terms of Reference will be reviewed throughout the project by the steering group and amended as required by resolution of Shaftesbury Town Council.

9 Delegated Powers

- 9.1 The Advisory Committee has no delegated powers

10 Reporting

- 10.1 The Advisory Committee will regularly update and report its progress to the Clerk of the Town Council ensuring that she, as the Responsible Financial Officer for the Council, is aware of the on-going budgetary implications associated with the project.
- 10.2 The Advisory Committee will provide a quarterly membership report for review by the Council

11 Application of Terms of Reference

- 11.1 A review of the working party membership and its duties will be taken annually, in May.
- 11.2 These terms shall apply from the date of this document and retrospectively where relevant to the date of the inception of the Advisory Committee