**Sustainable Development Topic Group meeting: 17.00 on 15th February 2021 – notes**

Attending: Nick Murry, Richard Ecclestone, Myla Watts, Adam Walton, Margaret Willmot, Margaret Green, Julian Jones, Shirley McCarthy, Bill Jarvis, Melanie Boyle, Maureen Lawrence, Charmian Spickernell, Graham Martin, Sue Deedigan, Christian Lange (part).

Link to the Sustainable Development Google Drive folder:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xUPTDBOOZKGFTiAAKRDWDpjquoQ6dJNX?usp=sharing>

(let me know if you have trouble accessing)

Summary:

1.    WCA **Climate Impact Report Card** on the Local Plan Review (based on Client Earth letter plus Wiltshire Council’s own stated criteria (e.g. in climate change paper)) (Richard Ecclestone lead).

On Google Drive for Topic Group member comment and additions (please make any additions clear by using the add comment or suggest edits tabs). Aim to complete draft ahead of next meeting.

2.  WCA Ecological Impact Report Card on the Local Plan Review (based on the Dasgupta Review plus Wiltshire Council’s own stated criteria)

No-one to lead on this. Suggested we could add ecological (natural capital/ biodiversity) points to climate impact card? TBD.

3.  Response on **Emerging Spatial Strategy** (Richard Ecclestone lead)

RE to place draft on SD Google drive folder for Topic Group member comment and additions (please make any additions clear by using the add comment or suggest edits tabs). Aim to complete draft ahead of next meeting.

4.  Responses to **Climate Change and Biodiversity questions** (Nick Murry lead)

NM has placed draft on Google Drive for Topic Group member comment and additions (please make any additions clear by using the add comment or suggest edits tabs). Aim to complete draft ahead of next meeting.

5.  Response to **Transport paper** (Margaret Willmot lead) – WCA comments on Transport Paper.

Margaret to put draft on Google Drive for others to comment.

6.  Response to the ‘Sustainability Appraisal’ (Sue Deedigan lead).

Sue to draft response (based on North Wilts FoE response). NM to support Sue.

7.  Responses on **individual towns and parishes plans** from climate/ ecological perspective

Responses needed for Chippenham (Nick, Sue, Mlya), Salisbury (Margaret Wilmott), Trowbrdige (?), Melksham (Shirley). Other towns and villages responses to be prepared by TG members from those locations. Please let NM know which town/ parish plan you are responding to.

8.  WC **flawed consultation**/ failure to comply with Equality Act (Louise Weissel lead)

Louise compiling evidence base and draft WCA response on this aspect which effects the public’s ability to stand up for the climate. Please send examples of problems logging into consultation sessions, not getting questions answered, difficulties finding/ understanding consultation documents. Questionnaire sent to towns/ parishes on their experience (link included in Parish letters)

9.  **Communications and further actions:**

* Towns and parishes letter sent on 15.02.21 (incl. link to survey on consultation);
* WCA members letter and consultation advice document to be prepared by Nick and Adam.
* Similar letter for climate friendly councillors to be based on the above;
* Complaint about consultation process to be prepared by Bill and Graham (first to WC, then to Ombudsman?)
* Press release needed when we have a response to brief (Bill and Shirley)
* Public statements at next Council meeting (on 23rd)?
* NM to arrange meeting with Matthew McLaughlin (Democracy reporter) when back from annual leave (has been supportive on opposition to Local plan and is interested in WCA angle on Local Plan).

10.         Gaps:

Still need someone to look at:

-     the **HNA** paper (incl. flawed ‘standard method (2014) on housing numbers (why not updated?) and

-     the **Flood Risk** paper (WC still building too close to flood plains given UKCIP projections). Needs someone who understands this area.

Also need to think about how ell (or not) WC has considered over-heating. Generally overlooked. Oxford have good policies (Shirley).

11,       Other points to note:

Client Earth advised NM that highlighting where WC Plan is inconsistent with evidence papers is good way to proceed (e.g. Spatial Strategy does not align with Climate Change and Biodiversity Paper). Planning Inspector will ultimately be looking at this kind of inconsistency.

Thanks to everyone for their contributions.

Not long left. Keep up the good work!

Rgds,

Nick