



Teversal, Stanton Hill and Skegby Neighbourhood Forum

www.tssneighbourhoodplan.org

**Minutes of the Forum meeting held on Wednesday, 3rd November 2021,
held online via Zoom**

1. Attendance.

Andrew Jenkins (Chair), Geoff Snare (Secretary), Terry Whitehead (Treasurer), Richard Goad, Lynn Henstock, Mike Vardy, Chris Goodall, Julian McLean, Douglas Edwards

Apologies: Helen Bond, Lis Reid, Jane Cooper

Andrew Jenkins started the meeting, welcoming everyone and stating that the purpose of the meeting was to seek comments from Forum members on Ashfield District Council's Draft Local Plan

2. Draft Local Plan

- a. No written comments had been received from Forum members
- b. Mike Vardy outlined the main points contained in the draft response that he had been working on and which he had shared with members of the Forum management committee:
 - i. The Neighbourhood Forum broadly welcomes and supports the Draft Local Plan, but has a number of major concerns
 - ii. During the drafting of the Teversal, Stanton Hill & Skegby Neighbourhood Local Plan, the Forum had worked closely with ADC to ensure there were no conflicts with the then Local Plan (subsequently withdrawn), so the Forum is disappointed that ADC did not consult with the Forum during the drafting of the new Local Plan - as a result, the Forum considers that in a number of ways the emerging Draft Local Plan conflicts with the Neighbourhood Plan and its principles
 - iii. The principal objective of the Forum through the Neighbourhood Plan is to preserve the essential character of the Neighbourhood Area and enhance and improve the area for future generations. The Forum believes that policies within the Local Plan are at odds with this vision.
 - iv. On new housing, the Forum has always accepted that there will be new housing in its area but its views on the size and positioning of that have always been governed by the realities on the ground. What cannot be disputed is the lack of infrastructure (schools, medical facilities, etc) in the Neighbourhood Plan Area. To answer this in the Draft Local Plan, deskbound studies are relied on which are often wildly inaccurate or impractical. In reality there is either a limited or no possibility to increase provision of health services and schools' places at existing sites within the Neighbourhood Plan Area and no current practical solution to this issue is contained in the Draft Local Plan - which must therefore constrain new

development.

In addition the Forum expects new housing development to be spread equitably across the District and concentrated where there is already good public transport provision, which the Draft Local Plan does not do. The Forum also expects new housing not to impact on the area's essential character and its most important attributes, which the Draft Local Plan also fails to do

- v. On public transport, the Neighbourhood Plan Area is particularly poorly served by public transport with large parts having no bus service. The lack of public transport and its unreliability is one of the major complaints by residents during surveys carried out by the Forum. Any decisions on where to site new development must take such constraints into account.
 - vi. On the Climate Emergency, the plan sets out a series of aspirations, but lacks the necessary goals and practical policies to ensure any aspirations are met
 - vii. As a general point the Forum is concerned that many of the studies submitted during planning and other applications are desk bound and lack detailed knowledge of the site in question. As a result, they often contain inaccuracies that can affect decisions. The Forum therefore asks that the wording of policies throughout the Plan emphasise the need for onsite studies and that those preparing such studies have familiarised themselves with the site for which the study has been prepared.
 - viii. Finally, it is noted that many of the studies on which the Plan is based are upwards of ten years old. Many things have changed in that time, particularly concerning sustainability and climate change.
- c. There followed a general discussion, but there were no suggestions for significant changes to what had been outlined previously
 - d. Members of the Forum management committee will be meeting with officers from ADC on November 9th to discuss the Draft Local Plan.
 - e. It was noted that the Forum's official response to the Draft Local Plan will be published through the normal channels once it has been finalised. The consultation period on the Draft Local Plan ends on November 16th.

3. Next Meeting.

The next Forum meeting will be on Wednesday January 26th, 2022, from 7pm, via Zoom.

This will be the Forum Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Attendees were thanked for their input to the meeting which closed at 8:50 pm.