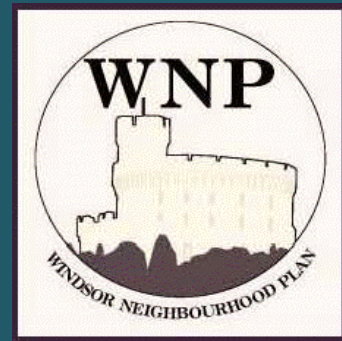


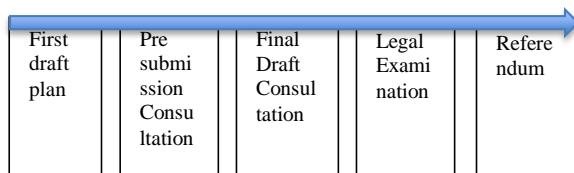
# Forum Newsletter May 27<sup>th</sup> 2016



This is to update you on progress since our last Forum meeting in March.

At that meeting we circulated our latest policy ideas to the Forum, to RBWM and to other interested parties, in order to iron out final details prior to Pre-Submission (which will be the first full public consultation on the whole first draft plan).

Just to remind you, the NP process from here is as follows:



Our original plan was to go for the “Pre-submission” (Article 14) stage this June, but the committee is now planning for it to start on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September. This is for several reasons; in order to accommodate the detailed work needed on the evidence; to avoid consulting over the summer holidays and to obtain more details of the emerging Borough Local Plan.

Since the March meeting, lots of work has gone on and is going on behind the scenes, and rather than have another Forum meeting at this stage the Committee decided to press on with the necessary background work. We need to have the following tasks finished by the end of June;

**(1) Assimilating feedback on our March draft**, including a substantive report from Borough Council officers and re-writing some parts.

**(2) Creating the necessary Appendices and Evidence documents** which will include the following;

- **Local Green Space:** the national legislation enables us to identify for special protection, green areas of particular importance to us. This will require that we categorise, describe, map and photograph each area. These green spaces include school playing fields and allotments and we are reviewing with the main stakeholders whether the existing statutory legislation needs to be supplemented by our NP.
- **Shop front Design Guide:** We are looking specifically at the appearance of shop fronts. Borough guidance already exists for the main town centres of Windsor and Maidenhead but we would like to suggest the extension of some provisions to our outlying neighbourhood shopping centres.



- **Area Character Assessments and Design Guides:** When we began this NP process, we tended to think about policies which would apply universally across our full WNP Area. We quickly realised that 30,000 people live in our Area which is quite disparate in terms of architecture, style and appearance and we have tried to reflect these differences by developing specific local design guides for areas of specific character.
- **Non Designated Heritage Assets (NDHA):** Local planning authorities may identify

NDHAs which are buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes which are not formally designated as heritage assets, but which do have local significance meriting consideration in planning decisions.

We are working with **The Windsor & Eton Society** who have the lead responsibility in compiling this list. There are now over 175 assets now listed and the full list can be viewed at:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/cloudrive/share/QEpcMWuirVDhl5nHgVME4aXelgqNDx7gxgd4WAm0qJ?ref=cd\\_share\\_link\\_email](https://www.amazon.co.uk/cloudrive/share/QEpcMWuirVDhl5nHgVME4aXelgqNDx7gxgd4WAm0qJ?ref=cd_share_link_email)

The approval mechanism whereby the list will be formally accepted by the Royal Borough is now being considered and our WNP will require developers to take account of all listed assets when preparing development schemes.

- **Views Manual:** we have nominated 11 key views which we would like to protect within defined viewing corridors. These views need to be thoroughly defined and recorded.



We think you will appreciate that these tasks take time and effort – and yes, if any of you would like to help, there is still time and jobs to be done!

(3) **Maps:** we need to create the maps which will support all of the above. We are preparing the drafts, which in turn will be produced in fair form by Council officers and we remain appreciative and grateful for their support.

(4) **Creating a Delivery and Implementation Plan:** This is all about what comes next after our WNP is made and all of our policies are settled. We need to decide what our community spending priorities should be. For example, should any available funds be spent on improving Dedworth Road, or on upgrading a Local Green Space?

(5) **Devising a Consultation plan:** The Pre-Submission consultation commencing 5<sup>th</sup> September is intended to find out whether our local Area electorate of about 22,000 people approve of our entire Neighbourhood Plan. We have discussed consultations with AECOM, our consultants and we expect to hold 2 or 3 consultation events, in the same manner as we have already done at the earlier stages. Clearly not all of the electorate will attend our events and it would not be realistic to think that we could distribute this many documents (which will be up to 100 pages each). Therefore we want to make full use of our website, which in turn will necessitate changes to it. We need to think about and plan these properly, and will be doing this over the summer.

(6) **Liaison with our immediate neighbouring NP groups,** including the Central Windsor Business Neighbourhood Plan (otherwise known as W2030).

(7) **Liaison with RBWM:** We should bear in mind that one of the core principles of NP is that the Plan cannot conflict with the strategic policies in the Local Plan prepared by the local planning authority or be used to prevent development that is included in the Local Plan. This is a very important element and means that we should liaise closely with the Royal Borough. This we have done and will continue to do so.

However, you will also know that we do not have an up to date Borough Local Plan (BLP), but this is being worked on by council officers. The proposed new BLP is planned for release for public consultation in August/September 2016. You will have noted above that we want to release our WNP for public consultation in September/October 2016.

Therefore several points of note arise:

- (a) Several recent planning applications have cited the fact that in the absence of a recent Local Plan, the NPPF requires that *permission should be granted unless any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits*. Until our BLP is in place therefore, there is limited defence against some development schemes.

- (b) Our WNP has to be in general conformity with the BLP, so we need to know what is in it.
- (c) The timing issue mentioned above means a risk of confusion when consultation begins over the BLP and our WNP.

For these reasons we are seeking to liaise closely with Council officers.

You will have read about the recent change in the Council leadership and the Cabinet. It is no doubt the Council's intention and hope (and our own) that these changes will not affect the timetables, but it would be prudent for us to remain cautious and to manage any administrative conflict which might arise.

(8) **Finance:** As of now, our finances are in good shape:

Total Funding	£ 28,000
Money spent	£ 16,544
Money committed	£ 5,557
<b>Balance available</b>	<b>£ 5,899</b>

We need to finance the work up to and during Pre-submission (and we have enough funds for this). The RBWM will be funding costs of the consultation on the Final Draft NP after that point.

Our financial year ends on 30th June and we will be issuing a formal set of accounts which will be reviewed at our AGM later in the year.

It is now all systems go to get everything ready for our September deadline. We will aim to keep you updated and to remind everyone nearer the time of the Pre-Submission Consultation..

**Appreciation**

We would like to thank all of you who are involved and working to complete this Plan.



*The Committee members Susy Shearer, Helen Price, Jane Carter and John Bastow hard at work!!*



*Susy, Helen, Raewyn Porteous, Claire Milne and Alison Logan recover from our successful January/February Options Consultation!*

Our committee continues to give freely of their time and energy, as are other associated helpers. Cori Mackin very ably set up and supports our IT links.

Thank you all for the time and dedication that you are showing for the benefit of us all.

Best wishes

Claire Milne & John Bastow, Co Chairs

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