

NPAG Housing Sub-group meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 10th February 2021 held by Zoom

1. Present: Dave Ainslie (Chair), Dick Reeve, Cornelius Vincent-Enright, Ron Simpson, Margaret Simpson, Mark Shaw and Christine Edwards.
2. Declarations of Interest. It was noted that Dave Ainslie, Ron Simpson, Margaret Simpson and Mark Shaw were all directors of Uppingham Homes CLT and that Christine Edwards was a member of the same CLT. As no discussion on the merits or otherwise of that particular site was to be entered into during the meeting no further dispensations were required.
3. The group considered the proposed model for the larger sites. A discussion ensued around whether to use a numerical scoring system of a traffic light RAG style. With one exception the group all felt that the numerical system was more scientific and agreed to adopt it. However, in recognition of the valid concerns raised about the potentially arbitrary allocation of scores and how to differentiate between very closely scoring alternatives it was recognised that we will need to build in a “margin for error” type calculation and that the scores overall should form just part of the final site selection decision (albeit an important one) as there may be other factors that have a significant impact.
4. The Group then worked through the model line by line and suggested amendments to the questions and the scores were made by unanimous agreement.
5. The Group then discussed the general approach to a model for smaller sites noting that the RCC/South Kesteven Design Guide Draft recently published had also made a distinction between larger sites (defined by them as over 10 dwellings) and smaller sites. The Group was pleased to note that this gave some real credence to the proposals to treat our sites in this way. The Group felt that having invested significant effort into the large sites model and believing it to be very robust, that we should adopt the same actual model for the smaller sites but amend the weightings in line with those previously agreed by NPAG at the meeting of 21st January 2021.
6. Next the Group turned its attention to the proposed feedback form to be included in the “Developers Booklet” (previously agreed at the NPAG meeting of 21st January 2021 and endorsed in principle by the Town Council on 4th February 2021). A full debate followed and various amendments were suggested and unanimously adopted resulting in a final version that will be recommended to the full NPAG for adoption.
7. The Group then went on to discuss the RCC/South Kesteven Draft Design Guidelines. Firstly the Group worked through a briefing paper (initially prepared by the Chair) and made various amendments to this. This revised paper is to be forwarded to the full NPAG for consideration.
8. Next the Group worked through a draft of a recommended submission to RCC/South Kesteven in respect of the Draft Design Guidelines. This response was worked through in complete line-by-line detail and suggestions and amendments made and all were unanimously adopted with a view to recommending the revised response to the NPAG for onward submission to Uppingham Town Council.
9. The meeting concluded at 9.25pm.

Chair of the NPAG Housing Sub-Group.

11th February 2021.