STAUNTON ON WYE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Neighbourhood Plan Review Group

NOTES of a meeting of the NDP Review Group held on Monday 9th November 2026 at Staunton on Wye Village Hall, Staunton on Wye, at 7 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Loraine Boddington (in the Chair) with Councillors Andrews, Jones, Williams, Arthur, Sellar and Pearson-Gregory, together with 18 members of the public.

In attendance: David Thame (Clerk)

1. Introduction

The Chair welcomed residents to the meeting, and explained that the process of reviewing a neighbourhood plan would, she hoped, be less arduous than the original five-year task of writing the 2016 Neighbourhood Development Plan. The purpose of the group was to provide a forum for views on the path to take, to discover those parts of the existing plan which required re-writing either because law and policy had changed, the existing plan had been unsuccessful, or local preferences and circumstances were different. All residents were welcome to participate: no decisions would be taken but the discussion would guide how the Parish Council proceeded.

The Clerk explained changes in law and planning policy since 2016, including the recent iteration of the National Planning Policy Framework and Herefordshire work on a new Local Plan. The revised NDP must be in conformity with both. The approach adopted in the 2016 NDP – which defined development principles but which did not allocate sites – was no longer permitted.

The Chair suggested the group proceed through the existing NDP identifying ommissions, changes or clarifications.

The following should be read against the 2016 Neighbourhood Development Plan.

2. Community Vision Statement

Add reference to biodiversity obligations
explore scope for design code
address requirements for pedestrian access/ footways

3. Objectives

Line 2 – add biodiversity objectives
Line 3 – add specific reference to local facilities (school, surgery, village hall, pub), stress that the plan should allow them to thrive and grow, not inhibit
Line 4 – reference requirement for direct access to A438 (e.g. minimise village through traffic)
Line 5 – add play and sport

Explore protection of views, protection of local green spaces

Line 6/7 – refer to safer and sustainable rural communities

4. Policies

SOW G1 – supported, in so far as Herefordshire Local Plan (HLP) and other policy permits. Suspect HLP will cover much of this territory.

SOW G2 – explore how to refer to Local Nature Recovery Strategy
explore relationship with Landscape Character Assessments
explore potential for separate Trees policy based on an arboricultural survey
stress role of play, not just leisure or sport

SOW H1 – meet again to consider settlement boundaries and thus the role of this policy (fewer larger developments or more smaller, depth of development from highways frontage, increasingly nucleated settlement).

SOW H2 – as above, themes to be considered as part of establishing a settlement boundaries

SOW H3 – references/evidence for house size
consider social housing
Seek professional advice on wording, but the aspiration is commendable
Will largely depend on the direction taken by HLP e.g. on proportion of affordable housing required.

SOW H4 – appears to be superseded

SOW B1 and B2 – supported

SOW B3 – note restrictions on polytunnels

SOW B4 – again, tighten language on polytunnels, perhaps add requirement for tunnels to be uncovered for three months a year to prevent them becoming de facto factories plus the visual disturbance
Some doubt about potential to regulate wind turbines – perhaps a low risk given the local wind profile, seek professional advice.

SOW B5 – advice required on relevance/wording given permitted development rights/Class Q. Clause (a) regarded as worth keeping

SOW B6 – for commercial site allocations for second meeting

SOW C1 – delete Portway Inn, add Staunton Pre-School; rethink ACV

SOW C2 - add play

Local Green Spaces – add policy

Protected Views – add policy

Dark Skies- add policy

Design Code – to be considered

5. Further meetings

Two further meetings: the first, with accurate mapping, to consider the shape of the settlement (dispersed v. nucleated) and hence settlement boundaries and potential extensions of the settlement and housing policies: 11th January 2027.

In preparation maps to be published on website and made available: a presence, to allow people to explore the issues, desirable at the village hall coffee morning 28th November 2026.

A third meeting to consider the remaining policies as they relate to design/potential for a design code.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.