

**Minutes of meeting of
Wells Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
on 31st January 2024**

Present:

Wells City Council: Cllrs Louis Agabani, Denise Denis, Gordon Folkard, Deborah Orrett and Sarah Powell

Adrian I'Anson

Wells Civic Society: Chris Winter

St Cuthbert Out Parish Council: Tony Hathway

1. Apologies from Cllr Tessa Munt and Stuart Todd
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2023 – approved as a correct record
3. Objection by Professor Armitage – reported and noted.
4. Basic Conditions Statement – received and noted
5. Outcome of the referendum

AFI'A reported that 1372 voted (15% turnout) with 1114 yes and 255 no as a 80% result with 3 spoilt votes. It was noted that Somerset Council will consider making the Plan at their meeting on the 14th of February.

6. List of projects in the Plan.

The list was considered and conclusions as recommendations to the Council were decided as follows.

1	Completion of a Settlement Setting Assessment	This should be considered in a meeting with Andre Sestini/Jo Milling
2	Creation of a Non Designated Heritage Assets List	A certain amount of work has been carried out already by Wells Civic Society. WCC need to consider
3	Updating the Housing Needs Assessment	This work was carried out without cost to WCC and

		will provide a useful tool to aid recommendations
4	Promoting involvement of WCC in negotiations between Somerset and developers relating to required infrastructure and planning gain	Liaison is required at member level between WCC and SC.
5	Relevant to the decision of WCC on 27 th January 2022 to proceed with traffic calming measures in the High Street.	WCC need to pursue this initiative using the existing viability report or produce and their own proposals.
6	Pursuit of improved parking signage within the City and appropriate solutions to the shortage of parking	WCC is aware of the issues and needs to
7	Liaison between WCC and Somerset to improve the bus service using the Somerset Bus Service Improvement Plan.	WCC have been effective in mobilising the public to press for improvements.
8	Work by WCC with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Visit Somerset, the Cathedral, the Bishop's Palace and the Chamber of Commerce to promote the visitor economy b) event and festival organisers and c) Somerset to refurbish the Coach Station 	Being pursued by WCC.
9	Liaison with St Cuthbert Out to consider developments that may impact the environment across the parish boundary	There is effective liaison between the two Councils.
10	Enhancement by WCC of biodiversity including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Restoring the city's streams and waterways b) Enhancing local green spaces and recreation spaces and c) Work with the Diocese in churchyards in the City 	Promoting work to develop, protect and enhance the green infrastructure network

7. With completion of the Wells Neighbourhood Plan, the work done by several individuals has been recognised and the Steering Group has passed responsibility to the City Council to
- a) ensure the policies in the Plan as material considerations are taken into account together with the Local Plan in deciding recommendations to Somerset Council on planning applications affecting Wells City
 - b) facilitate progress with the projects listed in the Plan as appropriate and
 - c) regularly monitor the effectiveness of the above.