

Tysoe Neighbourhood Plan
Terms of Reference for the Planning Group

(Reviewed and Revised October 2017)

1. Introduction

On 2nd June 2014 Tysoe Parish Council agreed to create a Neighbourhood Plan following the Government's publication of the Localism Bill (2011).

In order to produce this plan, the Parish Council will establish a Steering Group to oversee a process that will result in the preparation of a draft plan which will be put to a public referendum. In doing so it is essential that the Steering Group are provided with and accept the following terms of reference which are taken from the Shadwell Neighbourhood Plan TORs. They have been adapted to include some local requirements and the obligations demanded by the Parish Council's insurers.

Tysoe Parish Council has advised Stratford-on-Avon District Council that the residents of Tysoe Parish (which includes the settlements of Lower, Middle and Upper Tysoe), in consultation with other stakeholders, will produce a Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council is the body that formally submits the Neighbourhood Plan to Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

The plan will seek to:

- a. Identify all the important aspects of life in the parish for which are to be considered in planning for the future
- b. Bring forward proposals which will enhance the quality of life in the Parish in the years to come.
- c. Provide a framework for future land usage and housing provision within the parish.

2. Membership of the Steering Group

The Steering Group will be formed from residents and the local business community. Tysoe Parish Council will be represented on the Steering Group by at least one elected member of the Council. The Steering Group shall continue until the Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed and approved by the independent examiner. The Steering Group shall pass the draft neighbourhood plan to Tysoe Parish Council for approval prior to independent examination. If the Steering Group is holding any funds now or if the Steering Group is disbanded prior to the neighbourhood plan being approved and is holding funds, such funds shall be paid to the Parish Council unless otherwise directed by an organisation from which the funds were obtained.

The Steering Group will consist of a maximum of 20 members and a minimum of 6 members

If a member of the Steering Group fails to attend 3 consecutive Steering Group meetings the member will be deemed to have resigned from the Steering Group unless otherwise agreed by the Steering Group. This provision does not prevent any member from resigning from the Steering Group by providing the Chairman with written notice of their resignation.

The membership of the Steering Group shall be reviewed and confirmed by the Parish Council on a quarterly basis.

Any person wishing to become a member of the Steering Group from time to time shall apply to the Steering Group who shall resolve whether they shall be admitted to the Steering Group. If it is resolved that the individual shall be admitted to the Steering Group, the Parish Council shall ratify as it sees fit the individual's membership at the next quarterly review.

The Steering Group may form Working Groups or sub committees to undertake various aspects of the work involved in producing the Neighbourhood Plan. These working groups will be subservient to the Steering Group and act under its instructions, adhering to the same terms of reference.

The Local Planning Authority is obliged to provide assistance under the statutory provision of the Localism Act 2011.

3. Roles and Responsibilities of the Steering Group

The members of the Steering Group will:

- Promote the process of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan, be encouraged to participate and provide their views and opinions on the specific topics which are covered during the preparation of the Plan.
- Arrange meetings and appoint sub groups to gather views and consult with the village community on emerging policies which are considered appropriate for incorporation in the draft Plan.
- Assess existing evidence about the needs and aspirations of the Parish.
- Liaise with relevant organisations and stakeholders to secure their input in the process
- With the prior approval of the Parish Council secure the services of expert consultants as the need arises.
- Analyse the results of questionnaires or other evidence received during the planning process and use them to prepare a robust draft Plan.
- Inform the Parish Council of progress on a regular basis, at least once a month, in order that Steering/Working Group minutes can be incorporated into the Parish Council minutes.
- Support the local planning authority and Tysoe Parish Council during the referendum process.
- Acting as a sub-group of the Parish Council, the Steering Group shall not involve itself in any planning applications or planning appeals that arise whilst the Steering Group is extant; all planning matters will be dealt with by the Parish Council only.

The Parish Council will:

- Support the preparation of the Tysoe Neighbourhood Plan providing sufficient assistance and financial resources to ensure the plan is prepared expeditiously providing that overall expenditure falls within the budget allocated by the Parish Council.
- Facilitate, if required, contact with the relevant statutory bodies or parties who must be consulted during the plan making process.
- Carry out all statutory duties contained with the Neighbourhood planning (General) regulation 2012 and engage with Stratford-on-Avon District Council during the referendum process of the plan for which the principle authority is responsible.
- Following the preparation of the draft plan, and with the agreement of the Group, submit the plan to the Local Planning Authority for inspection and independent examination.

All Members of the Steering Group and any sub committees formed will:

- Declare any personal interest that may be perceived as being relevant to any decisions or recommendations made by the group. This may include membership of an organisation, ownership of interest in land (directly or indirectly) or a business or indeed any other matter likely to be relevant to the work undertaken by the Steering Group.

- Ensure that there is no discrimination in the plan-making process and that it is a wholly inclusive, open and transparent process to all groups in the parish and to those wishing to undertake development or be involved in the plan making process.
- Work together for the benefit of the communities established within the Parish.
- Treat other members of the Group with respect and dignity, allowing members to express their views without prejudice and interruption.
- Any decisions taken by the Steering Group, other than those delegated to appointed officers, will be carried if the majority (more than 50%) are in favour at any given meeting. The Chairman shall have the casting vote where the vote is equal.

4. Steering Group Chairman

- The Steering Group shall elect a Chairman and may appoint a Deputy Chairman from their number.
- If the Chairman is not present, the Deputy Chairman, if designated, shall take the meeting. If neither is present, members shall elect a Chairman for the meeting from amongst their number.

5. Frequency, Timing and procedure of Meetings

The Steering Group will usually meet monthly in public although sub groups may meet more frequently as necessary and the Steering Group may hold "working meetings" as necessary, to which the public are not invited.

- The Steering Group and its sub groups shall keep minutes of meetings which will be open to public scrutiny. These will be publicised on the Parish website and incorporated into the minutes of the Parish Council.
- Notices, Agendas, Minutes and associated papers will be emailed where possible to all Steering Group members who have attended any Steering Group meeting.
- Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with set procedure to be determined and agreed by the Steering Group.
- An agenda for meetings of the Steering Committee held in public will be published at least 7 days prior to the date of the meeting.
- The Steering Group shall be quorate when 4 members are present.
- The Steering Group will regularly update and report its progress to the Clerk of the Parish Council ensuring that she, as the Responsible Financial Officer for the Council, is aware of the on-going budgetary implications associated with the project.
- Any accounts of the Steering Group shall form part of the accounts of the Parish Council and are subject to the Council's audit.
- These Terms of Reference will be reviewed throughout the project and amended as required by agreement between the Parish Council and the Steering Group.

6. Application of Terms of Reference

These terms shall apply from the date of this document and retrospectively where relevant to the date of the inception of the Steering Group.

Date: