

Hockley Heath Neighbourhood Plan

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting held at 8.00pm on Monday 13 July 2026 at the Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Hockley Heath, Solihull, West Midlands.

Present: Cllr Quinton (acted as Chair), S. Swinton, J. Harding, A. Rayson, A. Freeman.

Public Attendees: None

Clerk: C. Wood

Min No.	Item	Action
48. 48.1	Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies Apologies were received from B. Gisborne, R. Cotton, J. Tymon and J. Price.	
49. 49.1	Declarations of Interest Forms and Guidance Notes No declarations of interest were noted.	
50. 50.1	Chair to close the meeting for the public session Members of the group introduced themselves.	
51. 51.1	Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee Meeting Held on 15 June 2026 and Matters Arising There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 June 2026.	
52. 52.1	KDBH Forum Update - KDBH Forum representative attended and provided guidance on progressing the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). - NP must align with the emerging Solihull Local Plan (LP), including housing requirements. - Steering Group to consider long-term (15-year) vision for Hockley Heath. - Draft introduction headings discussed and environment chapter will be reviewed. - NP policies will form part of the development plan and must be evidence-based. - NP scope limited; must accord with Government policy and LP. - Discussion included housing numbers, infrastructure capacity, and School Road development. - LP submission expected December 2026; adoption likely late in 2027 or early into 2028. - Potential policy areas were discussed (education, nature conservation, highways, community assets, built heritage, housing design, affordable housing, settlement boundary, local green space, key views, separation from Blythe Valley (strategic wedge), rural character and green belt consideration, employment and business protection, telecoms, renewable energy, healthcare provision). - Settlement Boundary and Local Green Space designations and key views / skylines may be considered; would need mapping. - Defence against further housing growth will depend on meeting housing requirement or infill assumptions. - NP policies must be robust, evidence-led, and consistently applicable and the examiner will focus on policy robustness, relevance and evidence.	
53. 53.1	Draft NP Chapters - NP policies will form part of the development plan and must be considered in planning decisions. - NP cannot be finalised until the LP progresses; LP will set housing requirement for Hockley Heath (in the meantime based on the now	Draft chapters to be forwarded to the Clerk for inclusion in a

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	withdrawn LP, to be updated if necessary, once the new LP draft is circulated). • Updated NPPF expected to be published in the summer. • Solihull Council's Green Belt Assessment expected to be published in the summer. • Limited scope to identify small sites for inclusion in the NP. • Emphasis on ensuring development reflects local character, density, landscape, scale, and appearance. • Affordable housing definitions noted; discussion on indistinguishable design and priority for residents. • Government grant funding no longer available to support development of a NP; planning consultants can support NP drafting. • Appointment of a professional planning consultant to be costed, due to the technical and specialist expertise required to draft a compliant NP.	working draft which will be circulated to members. Clerk to obtain quotations
54. 54.1	Business Surveys • The Clerk will liaise with Councillors regarding distribution of the business surveys within the next month.	
55.	Committee Members Reports • None.	
56. 56.1	Next Working Party Meeting Date The next meeting will be held in w/c 10 August or w/c 24 August (Clerk to provide an update once all members have shared their availability).	

C Wood, Clerk to Hockley Heath Parish Council