

Iwerne Minster

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Supporting Document

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Resources

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Local volunteers

When the village gave us the go ahead to produce an NDP, we asked for volunteers. 27 members of the village offered their time and expertise to help us with the project.. This included all but one member of the Parish Council with the one member of the Parish Council who was stepping down not being available.

Neighbourhood Development Plan Team

Leader and Consultant

Leader	Arthur Evans	01747 811287
Vice-Leader	Chris Nadin	01747 812377
Consultant	Jo Witherden	01258 837092

Environmental Needs Team

Lead Chris Nadin

Housing Needs Team

Lead Hazel Marsh

Communications Team

Lead Mike Jones

Community Facilities Team

Lead Kerry O'Connor

Business Needs Team

Lead John Hooper

John Hooper is also Chairman of the Parish Council.

Circumstances arose during the project resulting in two team leaders standing down and being replaced by other volunteers.

Housing: Hazel Marsh replaced by Beverley Abbey

Communications: Michael Jones replaced by Ian Watson

Our thanks to Hazel and Michael for all the work that they contributed while they felt able to do so.

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Consulting Support

From the onset of the project we were made aware that the task needed professional help and guidance. We were lucky to be able to afford and appoint a well qualified consultant, namely Jo Witherden, as you can see from her CV.



Overview

Jo Witherden BSc(Hons) DipTP DipUD MRTPI

Dorset Planning Consultant

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mobile/ txt: 07983 562036 --- office 01258 837092 email:

jo@dorsetplanning.co.uk --- website: www.dorsetplanningconsultant.co.uk ---
facebook

Jo Witherden is a qualified planner with over 20 years' experience, working independently, in local councils and the private sector. She has produced local plans, neighbourhood plans, supplementary guidance and planning obligations guidance, from start to finish.

She has detailed knowledge of the planning requirements and processes that guide what can be built in Dorset. She has managed teams of professionals, and is skilled in project management and working with communities, service providers and developers.

Skills and experience

- Detailed knowledge and application of planning policy and urban design – including providing development management advice and acting as expert policy witness in major planning inquiries, site assessment and masterplanning. ^[L]_[SEP]
- Plan-making experience at strategic and local, topic-based and site-based levels – from district-wide local plans to neighbourhood plans, design briefs, masterplans, generic design and sustainability guidance, village design statements, infrastructure delivery programmes and planning obligations guidance. ^[L]_[SEP]
- Track record for project managing large tasks – including preparation of a joint local plan from start through to examination, devising and updating the local development scheme, and coordinating council-funded public realm enhancement projects. ^[L]_[SEP]
- Creating new systems and approaches – for example developing and rolling out neighbourhood planning support, service reviews and efficiency measures. ^[L]_[SEP]
- Knowledge and experience of community engagement techniques, their coordination, facilitation, analysis and reporting – how to maximize participation

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from all sectors and ensure consultation is efficient and meaningful. Ability to set up websites and use of other social media. Mediation and negotiation skills. [L][SEP]

– Knowledge and experience of sustainability and environmental assessment requirements – in line with national legislation and European Directives [L][SEP]

– Knowledge and experience of planning obligations and community infrastructure levy requirements – including production of planning guidance covering these matters. [L][SEP]

– Managing multi-disciplinary teams – including experts in planning policy, urban design, landscape, environmental assessment, community planning, housing enabling and planning obligation / viability experts. [L][SEP]

Neighbourhood Plan Support

Jo has been helping neighbourhood plan groups from as early as 2011 when the first wave of ‘front runners’ was announced. Cerne Valley was chosen as one of these front runners, and Jo was their main project and planning advisor. In her position at the Council, she both over-saw and coordinated the advice and support given to all the neighbourhood plan groups across West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland, as well as speaking at local, regional and national seminars on the experience gained.

“Jo is a highly experienced and professional person without whom the Cerne Valley Parish Council would have struggled to have established its first Neighbourhood Plan. I would have no hesitation of recommending her to anyone requiring independent planning advice, particularly those Councils considering preparing a Neighborhood Plan.”

Ian Humphreys [L][SEP] Chairman, Cerne Valley Parish Council

Since setting up as an independent planning consultant in late 2014, Jo has supported a number of local communities in their work on neighbourhood plans. The type of work Jo has undertaken is bespoke to the needs of, and stage reached for, each group, and examples are given below. Jo is determined that neighbourhood plans should reflect the wishes and character of each area, each one should be different and driven by that community, and that her support should make the process easier, quicker and more effective.

Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch

The group contacted Jo to help them get off to a running start on their plan. Jo hosted two local sessions to raise awareness and garner ideas about the possible scope of the plan, and the local knowledge and communication channels that the group may wish to use. From this, Jo helped draft a more detailed project plan, setting out the steps the group may wish to follow and identifying the need for support at various stages. This has been used for the Locality Grant application (September 2015).

Piddle Valley

When Jo was called in by the Piddle Valley Group, it was clear that they had done a lot of work and were nearly in a position to draft their plan. They were keen to use Jo to draft their plan. They had organized a series of village meetings to discuss potential sites with the local communities, and wanted Jo to attend these

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to get a real flavour of the issues – and take a record of the proceedings for their evidence base. Jo also coordinated the work with the local council experts to flush out possible site-specific issues and policy requirements, and undertake the SEA screening. She has worked with the group to draft the plan for consultation with local people in May 2015, and it is now going through its formal pre-submission consultation stage

http://www.piddlevally.info/neighbourhood_plan.php

Shillingstone

The Shillingstone neighbourhood plan group managed to secure 10 days direct support from Locality as part of their grant. However when they met Jo they were keen to use her knowledge and experience to speed up progress further. Jo produced a potential project plan and timeline for them, suggesting where she and the Locality support could help the local group. They are now making excellent progress, and having consulted with local people on possible green spaces and development sites. They are now at their formal pre-submission consultation stage. <http://www.shillingstone-pc.org.uk/publications.php>

Jo Witherden – Dorset Planning Consultant

Plans

The initial help that we got from Jo was to set up a plan detailing the activities that we would have to undergo, and resources required, to complete the first stage of the project.

After completing the first stage, Jo produced a plan for the next stage.

A representation of the work involved and timelines is shown on the next page.

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Iwerne Minster Neighbourhood Plan timescales			2015												2016												2017																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
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The Website

Thanks again to skills in the Parish, we were able to produce a Iwerne Minster Neighbourhood Development Plan website.

WWW.IMNDP.ORG.UK

This has been constantly updated and is available to anyone in the parish with a computer. Over 100 people have signed up to receive automatic updates to the information on the website.