



Project: Thame Neighbourhood Plan **Ref:** THP761
Title: Progress Note **Date:** August 2021
To: Graeme Markland **From:** Jon Herbert
Pages: 2 (two)

Work undertaken on TNP2 during June and July is summarised over the following pages:

Site Assessment and Selection:

Reports have been updated following input from Steering Group members and clarifications from SODC and OCC in respect of the status of various sites included in the earlier SHELAA (Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment).

The assessment and identification of preferable sites is currently subject to consultation. Following receipt of comments the preferred sites will be reviewed and guidance on these will begin to be developed further in order to inform policies in TNP2, including design guidance and principles as per TNP1.

Several promoters have requested meetings in respect of their sites. In the interests of transparency promoters have been advised that comments should be made through the consultation process and, subject to the outcome of that process, meetings will be arranged as appropriate with promoters of the preferred sites. This will help inform site specific policy.

Character Assessment:

A draft Character Assessment has been prepared and is currently subject to consultation. This provides more detail on the qualities of each character area within Thame, the risks to character and opportunities for improvement. This provides more detail than contained in TNP1 and will help support a more effective policy, indicating design expectations for different areas. Comments received through consultation will inform an update of the Character Assessment, which will eventually sit alongside TNP2 to be referenced when preparing and determining planning applications.

Green Living Plan:

The GLP has been reviewed and all objectives and actions in this considered to determine how they might be incorporated within TNP2. This forms a background document and indicates where actions might be incorporated within policy or which might comprise a wider project or aspiration for Thame.

Consultation:

Material has been prepared for consultation. This seeks views on the site assessment and selection process, the vision and objectives, design qualities and characteristics, and wider matters of importance that respondents think should be included in TNP2.



Staff from Troy Planning will be in attendance at the drop-in session arranged for August 19 and will facilitate a workshop around matters of character. An interactive presentation is currently being prepared for this.

Comments and responses received will be reviewed and summarised, forming a paper that will comprise part of the Consultation Statement to be submitted to SODC alongside TNP2.

Locality support:

An application for SEA technical support has been made and the package awarded. Equally, an applications has been made for the Housing Needs package which has been awarded. The outcomes of the Housing Needs package will help inform update and more bespoke policies in respect of housing mix, type and tenure, including specialist housing. Furthermore, and following recent changes to policy, the package should include consideration of the new First Homes policy and implications for housing mix in Thame.

Plan drafting:

A structure for TNP2 has been prepared, extracting the text from TNP1. This will be updated subject to the outcomes of the above.

Education:

Contact has been made with OCC Education who is currently in the progress of preparing new pupil forecasts for Thame and which will establish whether there are any requirements for early years and school place requirements over the plan period, triggered by housing and population change. The forecasts will be published following formal approval from DfE later this year.

Employment:

Employment land requirements and projections are currently being reviewed and will be reported on in due course. It was suggested that local information on business requirements could be provided to help with this. Receipt will help inform the paper, which will comprise background to TNP2.

Next Steps:

Consultation comments will be reviewed and summarised, and the implications of this shared for discussion with the Town Council. The Site reports an Character Assessment will be updated accordingly and drafting of TNP2 commenced, including design analysis of preferred site allocations. As per earlier updates, the intention is to move towards consultation on a Regulation 14 draft Plan in November / December, with submission early in the new year. This is subject to updates on the Locality packages (SEA and Hosing Needs) and any other dependencies (e.g.: comment and review from SODC).