
Meeting	Local Plan Working Group
Date	30 June 2014
Present	Councillors Merrett (Chair), Ayre, Barnes, Boyce (Substitute), D'Agorne, Horton, Semlyen, Simpson-Laing, Steward and Watt (Vice-Chair)
Apologies	Councillors Funnell and Reid

1. **Declarations of Interest**

At this point in the meeting, Members were asked to declare any personal, prejudicial or pecuniary interests they may have in the business on the agenda.

2. **Minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the last Local Plan Working Group held on 17th April 2014 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3. **Public Participation**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak under the council's public participation scheme.

Michael Parish of Strensall and Towthorpe Village Design Statement Working Group was in attendance in case Members wished to ask him any questions.

4. **Draft Village Design Statements for Wheldrake and Strensall with Towthorpe for Consultation.**

Members considered a report which presented to them two consultation draft Village Design Statements, one for Wheldrake and one for Strensall with Towthorpe. The report outlined the process so far in producing the documents and concluded that that a consultation process should be undertaken, with a view to

approving the guidance as draft Supplementary Planning Documents to the emerging Local Plan.

Officers circulated an update to the committee report containing proposed amendments to the Strensall and Towthorpe Village Design Statement (Annex B). The amendments had been agreed with the Strensall and Towthorpe Village Design Statement Working Group to provide further detail and ensure deliverability of the Design Guidelines. The update is attached as an annex to these minutes for information.

Members' attention was drawn to the draft Village Design Statements attached at annexes A and B to the report. Officers advised that both documents had been produced by local groups who had put in voluntary hours and who were now keen to progress the documents for a summer consultation. Officers had seen previous drafts and offered guidance. Members were being asked to approve the content, with the tabled amendments to the Strensall and Towthorpe document and were asked to note that the graphic design detail would be finalised at a later stage.

The Chair expressed appreciation to both groups for the hard work and research which had gone into the draft Design Statements. He asked that a vote of thanks be recorded.

Members were happy to approve both draft Village Design Statements, with the tabled amendments, for consultation.

Resolved: That in line with Option 1, the Local Plan Working Group recommends Cabinet to:

- (i) Approve the documents attached at Annex A and Annex B, along with supporting information for public consultation.

Reason – The draft Village Design Statements follow in the footsteps of other previous examples that have been agreed; observing the general guidance and principles required in their production, whilst successfully defining

the individual qualities of the villages and bringing forward appropriate Design Guidelines.

- (ii) Delegate to the Director of CES in consultation with the Cabinet Member the making of any incidental changes to the draft documents and supporting information as a result of recommendations of Cabinet.

Reason – so that changes recommended as a result of discussions at this meeting can be made, in liaison with the VDS group.

- (iii) Delegate to the director of City and Environment Services (CES) in consultation with the Cabinet Member the consultation strategy.

Reason – To ensure that the proposed methods of consultation are satisfactory to Members. The consultation process as suggested in paragraph 22 of the report follows the procedure established for other Village Design Statements at this stage of their production.

Minute Annex - Update Report.

Cllr D, Merrett Chair
[The Meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 5.10 pm].

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Proposed amendments to Strensall with Towthorpe Village Design Statement (Annex B)**Update report to Local Plan Working Group 30/06/14**

The following points of clarification have been agreed by Katherine Atkinson and Strensall with Towthorpe VDS Group to provide further detail and to ensure the deliverability of the Design Guidelines. It is proposed that amendments will be made along with any arising from Local Plan Working Group/ Cabinet prior to consultation.

NB. **Specific proposals** to shape and direct **where** future development should go, and further explore issues of traffic flow and infrastructure improvements would be the remit of a Neighbourhood Plan rather than a Village Design Statement and are therefore **not** included.

It is proposed to add (or ~~amend~~) the following text:

1. (LPWG p60) Page 2, paragraph 2, add clarification or footnote regarding Ministry of Defence planning status:

'The Crown (Ministry of Defence) is normally required to apply to the local planning authority for planning permission. There are, however, certain provisions to help facilitate critical development and restrict access to sensitive information, mainly in the interests of national security and defence.'

2. (LPWG p61) Page 2, paragraph 4, add Ministry of Defence engagement to date:

'The Garrison Staff Officer, Headquarters York Garrison and the Commanding Officer at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall were briefed on and consulted about the VDS in December 2012. In July 2013, the Range Control Officer provided the information used in the VDS covering Strensall Military Training Area.'

3. (LPWG p65) Page 7, What We Would Like To See, add aspiration note at beginning of this section:

'This section reflects the concerns and aspirations of Strensall with Towthorpe residents and our Parish Council.'

Add supporting evidence after traffic paragraphs:

'The 2006 City of York Council Traffic Study Report for Strensall with Towthorpe identified traffic flow issues for resolution. No further action was taken at that time because of financial constraints. The building of additional housing in the Village since then has exacerbated the situation.'

4. (LPWG p66) Page 8, add clarification how the bus service is not easily accessible from many parts of the village:

'The bus service runs along the main traffic route through the Village, namely along The Village and York Road. Residents living at the eastern end of Moor Lane and in the northwestern part of the Brecks have to walk approximately 800 metres to access the nearest bus stop. Westpit Lane and Barley Rise residents are approximately 500 metres from a bus stop, if the snicket ways are used.'

5. (LPWG p67) Page 9, add explanation that ideas for 'where' facilities could be provided may be explored in a Neighbourhood Plan at a future date:

'Following on from the Village Design Statement, Strensall with Towthorpe Parish Council is considering progressing to a Neighbourhood Plan to shape and direct where future development should go, and further explore issues of traffic flow and infrastructure improvements. The VDS Working Group is willing to assist in this work.'

6. (LPWG p68) Page 10, Population paragraph 2, and add clarification and move to previous 'What We Would Like to See' section on page 9:

'The basic infrastructure of the Village has not changed to match the increase in population. The majority of our Villagers believe that ~~this level of expansion is unsustainable. They believe that~~ further investment in the infrastructure and amenities of the Village is necessary before any further development or significant increase to the population of the Village takes place. They see the current infrastructure and supporting services as being at saturation level. Their views were garnered through the VDS Questionnaire distributed in July-August 2013.'

7. (LPWG p70) Page 12, amend/ add evidence of Synod of Whitby:

It is possible that the village was the site of the Synod of Whitby in 664AD.

"The two main accounts of the Synod are the Life of Wilfred written by Stephen of Ripon c710 and Bedes Ecclesiastical History written in 731. Both sources state that the Synod was held at a monastery of Hilda in a place called Streanaeshalch. This has traditionally been associated with Whitby as we know that Hilda was head of a monastery in Whitby. However, there is no recorded place-name in the Whitby area that reflects/ preserves the name of Streanaeshalch as recorded in the sources.

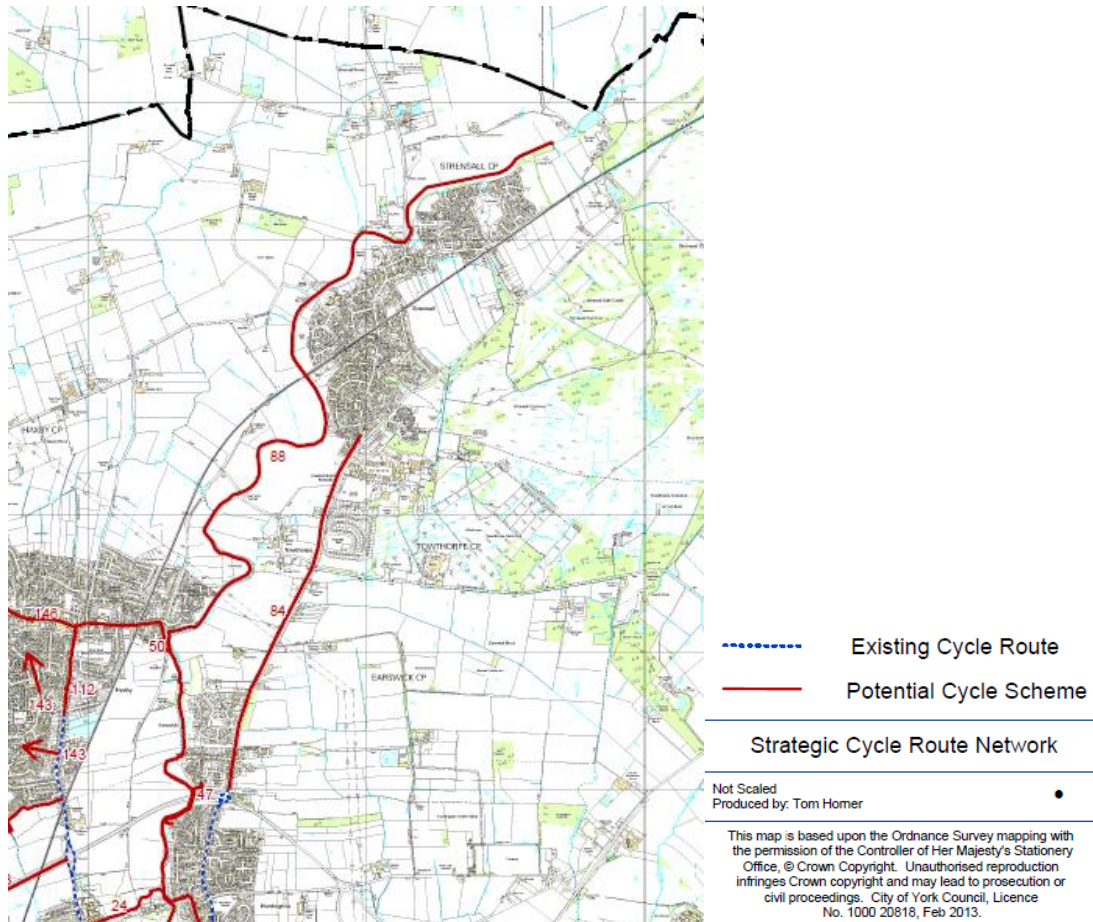
The case for Strensall as the location of the Synod of Whitby has been argued most recently in an article by Barnwell, Butler, and Dunn in 2003 "The Confusion of Conversion: Streaenæshalch, Strensall and Whitby and the Northumbrian Church", in Martin Carver (ed), The Cross Goes North, York Medieval Press.

Although there is no archaeological evidence for an Anglo-Saxon monastery at Strensall, one could argue that no-one has looked very hard. And, as there is evidence revealed by TimeTeam for a possible Anglo-Saxon monastic enclosure of 7th/8th century date in Poppleton, it is entirely possible that a similar feature lurks in Strensall waiting to be excavated." John Oxley, City Archaeologist, City of York Council

8. (LPWG p90) Page 32, add details of planned additional footpaths by the Parish Council:

'The Parish Council is negotiating to establish designated footpaths along south bank of River Foss and to bring about the reinstatement of the footbridge at Cowslip Hill (part of Footpath 17). The former is subject to permission from land owners and latter is responsibility of the City of York Council.'

9. (LPWG p91) Page 33, add extract from Strategic Cycle Route Network Map showing potential future cycle routes (include title, key and copyright statement). Add 'subject to funding availability' to end of first cycling paragraph, and route numbers (88 and 84) to second paragraph to aid cross referencing.



10.(LPWG p95) Page 37, add:

'Community users of Robert Wilkinson Primary School facilities are listed at the rear of this document.'

Also at Page 46 Community Group table, add the following additional groups to the school's facilities:

- 'Cubs
- Brownies
- Karate
- Pool Babies
- Boxercise'
- Water Babies
- Baby Swim
- Strensall Tigers
- Ride 4 Life Motorcycle Training

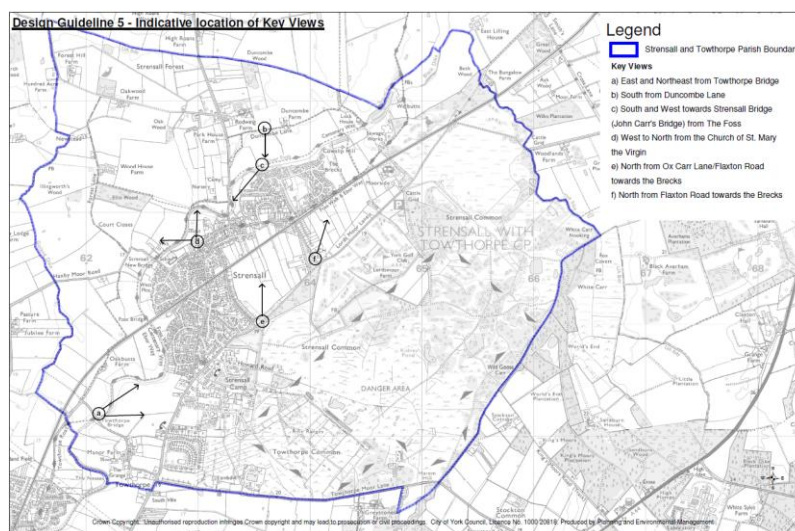
11.(LPWG p101) Page 43, amend Design Guideline 1 to reflect the different character parts of the Village:

'Strensall with Towthorpe is a large village in a rural setting. All development should enhance the rural-character of our Village.'

12.(LPWG p101) Page 43, amend Design Guideline 2 to explain that this refers to both infrastructure (roads/ sewers) and Village amenities:

'The linear nature of the Village should not be exacerbated by new development at its extremities without an improvement to the road infrastructure and amenities. Further new development should be accompanied by a significant redesign of the Village to promote access to infrastructure and amenities.'

13.(LPWG p101) Page 43, Design Guideline 5 add map to show views:



14.(LPWG p102) Page 44 amend Design Guideline 10 to reflect that higher roof heights may be appropriate in certain cases/ as part of larger development sites:

'The height and pitch of roofs should be compatible with, and sympathetic to surrounding property. A variety of roof heights could be explored within larger development sites. ...'

15.(LPWG p102) Page 44, amend Design Guideline 13 to recognise the different characteristics within the Village:

'New development and extensions should use building materials appropriate to a rural Village and sympathetic to neighbouring properties. ...'

16.(LPWG p102) Page 45, amend Design Guideline 20 to accommodate development that can take place under permitted development rights, and remove outdated terminology ('presumption against'):

'Gardens and open spaces between buildings contribute to the rural charm of the Village and should be retained wherever possible. There should be a presumption against the Any subdivision of these spaces where this would should not harm the character and visual amenities of the area.'