

Employment & Leisure In Stamford – Alternative Land Use Consideration

Background

There are approximately an additional 3000 homes either approved or in the planning stage in and around Stamford. These dwellings will be built in the following sites:

- Stamford North (1350 dwellings)
- Quarry Farm (650 dwellings)
- Exeter Fields (268 dwellings)
- Ermine Fields (250 dwellings)
- Barnack Road (190 dwellings)
- Uffington Road (311 dwellings)

This means that over the next 15 years, an additional 7200 residents will be living in the Stamford area, an increase of 35% on the 2021 censuses.

With the exception of the Barnack Road site, which will be a mixed-use development, there is little to no provision for additional commercial opportunities and no leisure opportunities. Currently, with the limited employment and leisure sites throughout the town, many residents and their families leave town to work or carry out leisure activities in alternative towns and cities, such as Peterborough, Leicester, Corby, Kettering and Cambridge.

In response, Stamford Town Council seeks to establish a working group dedicated to exploring potential opportunities for sites throughout the Stamford area which could be then utilised for the provision of extra facilities.

Purpose

The purpose of the Employment & Leisure in Stamford Working Group (ELISWG) is to

- Advise and support the Planning Committee and the wider Council in recognising opportunities throughout the town
- Facilitate meaningful engagement across local partners and communities and encourage broad stakeholder input
- Identify and prioritise sites, opportunities and challenges
- Coordinate activity, evidence gathering and narrative development
- Monitor progress and provide recommendations to the Planning Committee

Scope and Responsibilities

- The Working Group will be responsible for:
- Advising on recommendations to be presented to the Planning Committee
- Identifying key groups, organisations and individuals
- Supporting stakeholder engagement to ensure sections of the community are represented.
- Ensuring that all recommendations made are in line with Stamford Neighbourhood Plan, SKDC Local and the National Planning Policy Framework
- Ensuring that any recommendations made align with the cultural heritage of Stamford
- Drafting and implementing any required public opinion surveys to gauge the level of interest in the community
- Liaising with external funders, regional or national bodies and statutory authorities as needed

Governance and Reporting

The Working Group will report into the Planning Committee and will reporting progress regularly to the Committee.

Membership

The Working Group will be drawn from the wider community group and may include up to three Councillors from Stamford Town Council.

Local members shall be drawn from (but not limited to) the following areas

- Education & Youth
- Local Authorities
- Art & Culture
- Local Business and Tourism

Membership is voluntary, and individuals/organisations may nominate representatives from their respective communities.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chair:

Appointed by the Planning Committee to convene meetings, set agendas, ensure focus on objectives, and act as liaison with the Planning Committee, officers and elected members.

Secretariat:

Where required, this will be provided by STC staff, responsible for meeting coordination, minutes, action tracking and communication.

Members:

Members are expected to:

- Attend meetings regularly
- Contribute expertise, insight, and evidence
- Participate in sub-groups or task teams where needed
- Act as ambassadors within their networks

Meetings and Frequency

The ELISWG will meet on a regular basis, on a timescale to be agreed by the Working Group

Additional sub-group or task working sessions may be convened for specific workstreams (e.g., community engagement, evidence collation, writing team).

Meetings may be held in person or virtually.

Decision Making

The Working Group will operate by consensus wherever possible.

Where consensus cannot be reached, decisions will be referred to the Planning Committee for direction.

Timeline

- Key phases include (dates to be added)
- Formation and launch
- Invitation to the Community to join
- Stakeholder engagement and evidence gathering
- Consideration of opportunities
- Draft proposals preparation
- Review and refinement
- Final submission

Review

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed periodically to ensure they remain fit for purpose and reflect the evolving needs of the Working Group, the Planning Committee and Stamford Town Council.