

Notes of Neighbourhood Planning Meeting 8 May at 19.30, Bell Inn, Whittington

Present

Councillors Knowles, Spencer, Taylor & Walton, Anne Adams, David Adams, Brian Belleini, Chris Pritchard, Phil Taylor, Debbie Barnish, Andy Owen, Richard Bond, Sally Kinnersley, Clive Abbott.

Maxine Turley, Patrick Jervis from Lichfield District Council.

Apologies

Enid Jones, Annamarie Stone.

Cllr Walton explained the purpose of the meeting was to provide background to what a Neighbourhood Plan is and how one was formulated and to consider forming a Steering Group to kick start the process in Whittington and Fisherwick.

The context of the existing Parish Plan and the fact that it could be used as a possible baseline for a Neighbourhood Plan was explained.

The need to set up a Steering Group comprising members of the community possibly including anyone present at the meeting was explained highlighting the fact that Neighbourhood Plans needed to be community led and subsequently endorsed through a community referendum.

Everyone present was asked to consider what was good, not so good and what might be needed in the future in Whittington and Fisherwick and to print their ideas on post-it-notes which would be briefly reviewed at the end of the meeting and would be collated later and summarised into possible themes for a future meeting.

The Community Infrastructure Levy was explained and the fact that a greater percentage of it would be allocated to communities who had approved Neighbourhood Plans.

The representatives from Lichfield District Council gave a presentation that provided a brief guide to the process of formulating a Neighbourhood Plan and about the help that they could provide and the relationship between NPs and the LDC local development plan. They highlighted that there were now 11 designated Neighbourhood areas in Lichfield, Whittington and Fisherwick being just one. Potentially all could be the subject of a Neighbourhood Plan but that that was down to the respective local communities within those areas.

LDC stressed that the formulation of a plan was not a quick process, but that this should not deter. In the main the time factor was due to the statutory weight that such a document would have. Around two years from start to ratification was suggested.

NPs should look to cover a period of 15 years although a plan can be revisited at any time.

LDC said that Neighbourhood Plans cannot resist development or act as a block against it but they can specify e.g. the type and location of such within the area

including such things as the density and mix of homes. Neighbourhood Plans can specify what the community wants to protect.

A couple of examples were cited to illustrate how various communities have taken NP on board.

LDC concluded with an overview of the help and guidance that was available.

The representatives from LDC were thanked for their very useful contribution and took their leave of the meeting.

Cllr Spencer then outlined the role of a NP Steering Group and highlighted its possible arms length relationship with the Parish Council. It was felt that such a group should comprise of between 8 -14 people.

Everyone present was then asked to consider what was good, not so good and what might be needed in the future in Whittington and Fisherwick and to write their ideas on post-it-notes. These were briefly reviewed and would be collated and summarised into possible themes for a future meeting.

All present agreed that the meeting had been a very useful introduction and confirmed that they would meet again on 29 May at 07.45 pm, Bell Inn. This future meeting would be publicised to all who had previously expressed interest in formulating a Neighbourhood Plan and also to the wider community.

Cllr Walton closed the meeting at this point thanking everyone for their support.