

Notes of Neighbourhood Planning Meeting 29 May at 19.45, Bell Inn, Whittington

1. Welcome & Apologies

Present

Clive Abbott, Andy Owen, Brian Belleini, Cllr. Julia Spencer, Cllr. Phil Taylor, Cllr. David Walton, Chris Jones, Garry Hyde, Enid Jones, Fran Jackson and Phil Jackson,

Apologies

Julia Jamieson, Annamarie Stone, Karen Mitchell, Rosemary Hopkins, Sandra Turley, Sally Kinnersley, Chris Pritchard, Cynthia Knowles, Debbie Barnish and Steve Rushton.

All those present introduced themselves giving a little bit of personal background and explained why they had taken an interest in being involved with the Neighbourhood Planning process.

2. Notes of meeting held 8 May & any matters arising that were not covered on the Agenda.

Everyone present had the opportunity to review the Notes, no objections or amendments were raised / requested and they were therefore accepted as a true record.

A question was asked about the Community Infrastructure Levy. Cllr Walton explained that this was a levy 'charged' on new developments and that those areas that have an approved Neighbourhood Plan (NP) would receive higher funding from this than those which did not. Such funding could be utilised by the community (through the Parish Council) to fund infrastructure and other projects.

The existence of grant funding to support the development of NPs was explained as was the fact that an application has already been submitted by the Parish Council to one of the grant giving bodies for £7K.

The relationship between an NP and the Local Development Plan was further explained and the fact that Parish Plans whilst useful had no legal status whereas NPs had. Parish Plans could be used as the initial basis to 'kick start' the formulation of an NP, but the two Plans were entirely separate publications.

It was made clear that NPs had to be based on robust evidence and that this was one of the major subject areas the Independent Inspector would expect to see when the NP was put before that individual.

3. Roles & Responsibilities of the Group

There was a broad discussion about what the roles and responsibilities of the Group should be; how the Group might be structured and what its relationship with the Parish Council should be (shown simplistically below):



It was agreed that its Terms of Reference / operational practice should be debated and agreed at the next meeting. There was also some discussion about funding and reimbursement of incidental costs.

4. Engagement with the Community.

It was agreed that further dialogue with the community was absolutely necessary more especially as it was perceived that many in the wider community had little if any knowledge of what an NP was and why it was so important for the villages to have one. By engaging more widely in a manner that was tailored to the needs of the broader audience it was hoped that more volunteers would come forward.

An explanation of the process through to completion including a Plan and 'calendar' was thought to be a good start. There was also the suggestion that representatives from other communities who were more advanced with their NPs could be invited to come and take part in a community presentation. Making copies available of NPs that had already been approved was also a suggestion.

It was suggested that a wider range of published media should be used to communicate, not just through Connect and Village Voice in the Mercury. In this respect it was suggested and agreed that an open letter from the Group should be sent to selected publications and Cllr. Walton agreed to produce a draft for consideration.

A general discussion about Events, Mail shots, Questionnaires and presenting to village clubs and organisations took place.

It was agreed that a stand at the Church Fete should be taken and various ideas were discussed as to what this should comprise. A map incorporating the local Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment should form part of this that shows areas where development might occur in the future. It was suggested visitors to the stand could map pin where they lived which would give them an insight as to how where they lived might be impacted by known and possible future developments. It was also thought a good opportunity to get visitors to complete a short questionnaire.

Further detail including a request for those who could take a time slot on the day would be circulated.

5. Dates of future meetings.

It was collectively agreed to hold meetings on a monthly basis on the 3rd Wednesday, 7.45 p.m in the Bell Inn.

Next meeting 18 June 2014.

6. Any other business.

There being no other business, Cllr. Walton thanked everyone present and closed the meeting.