

Neighbourhood Plan
Steering Group Meeting Minutes
Wednesday 13 May 2015

Present

Andrew Thomson
Paul Bates
David Brown
Bob Edwards
Jackie MacArthur

Peter Aston
Amanda Martin
Steve Foster
Peter Minshull
Jenny Unsworth

Apologies

Apologies were received from Brian Hogan and Laura Tilston

1. Minutes of last meeting – accepted as being a true record – but missed that Jenny Unsworth was in attendance.
2. Vision and Objectives for NP

Circulated by **AT** waiting for feedbacks from groups. Positive comments around the room about it being a useful document. Note SF not received a copy ACTION BH

ACTION: All to look at framework and see how it works and feedback to Steering Group. AT happy to then sit with each group.

Noted that Cheshire East Council is due to release new housing figures today (Wed 13) discussion around implications for Congleton NP. Agreed good as firmer evidence base to work from. (Post meeting figure announced was 36,000 an increase of 7,000. Not expected to impact on Congleton)

There is a Meeting on the 19th May to look at housing numbers and on the 20 May to look at spacial distribution. People who commented on the previous Local Plan invited back to give comments and understand the rationale behind new figures. JU and PM attending.

3. Prioritising Housing – Housing evidence benefit package

Agreed at the previous meeting that Housing needed to be dealt with as part of an overall picture of CNP – not as a stand-alone item. Timescale not significantly different if just housing or all aspects of the plan. CNP needs to be in general conformity with LP. If CNP doesn't run with the LP figures inspector could throw out our CNP.

Need to ensure a common policy across overlapping areas – a development could be in two Neighbourhood Plan areas with differing policies. Important to show trying to work together and some elements of flexibility (use words like minimum....)

Question raised about how we address location and needs of additional schools and health needs to meet a population larger than our NP area. Advice from AT – build in flexibility in wording but also CEC’s main concern as principal authority.

4. Feedback from groups

a) Comments from Housing

- i) Need a proper understanding of C2 housing requirements (housing for elderly/ people with needs) Action DB
- ii) Want to meet with Master Planners re what they are doing re housing Action DB
- iii) Amanda Martin waiting for a meeting with Tom on Housing Figures Action DB
- iv) Asked for David Roffe to look at landscape, heritage and buildings of significance that should be protected - AT suggested AECOM could help with this through their technical support.
- v) Expressed concern that options over green open spaces are being taken away from Congleton (sustainability and leisure) Green spaces where housing options being considered include Tommy’s Lane, Tall Ash Farm, Bath Vale, Wagg’s Road/Fol Hollow, Meadow Avenue, Priestly Fields, Back of Padgbury Lane, Broadhurst Lane, Area behind Eaton Bank and Area behind Trading Estate. ACTION FEEDBACK FROM SUSTAINABILITY and LEISURE. AT reminded National Planning Policy green space that is accessible to the community, used by the community and valued by the community. Need to identify areas that are important

b) Comments from Transport

- i) Concern about the transport figures for Padgbury Lane – not sure on how they are reached and question about transport modelling. DB commented that there are rules set out about how modelling is carried out.
- ii) PM received about 300 pages of traffic modelling reports from CEC Highways/Jacobs which he is going through
- iii) PM having difficulties setting up a meeting with CEC Sustainable transport and public transport team. Aware of needs for walking and cycling but need CEC assistance on Public Transport. ACTION DB/PB to arrange meeting with officers from CEC

c) Comments from Sustainability Group

- i) Found framework useful and revisiting issues to see how it fits with the framework
- ii) Inviting AT to next meeting
- iii) Conscious of the MALPAS report and avoiding a long list of open spaces
- iv) Would like to engage support of Cheshire Wildlife Trust to carry out an evidence base report. Cost to £1000 - £500 CNP and £500 CEC – ACTION ALL AGREED WORTHWHILE. PA to go ahead and get it booked.

d) Comments from Town Centre and Heritage Group

- i) Meeting next week
- ii) Following meeting JM and SF to meet with Caroline Simpson to understand the link between Master Plan and CNP plus seek views of CEC on their plans for the land they own in the Town Centre
- iii) Concern the Town Centre didn't appear on the timeline circulated by BH – ACTION BH to add in Town Centre and Heritage Group

e) Comments from Economic Group

No one present at this meeting. But understand to be progressing well and working on protecting land for employment

f) Comments from Communication Group

- i) Summary leaflets printed and ready for distribution
- ii) Questionnaire being printed – distributed from the 18th May – closing date 20th June
- iii) On-line version of the questionnaire prepared
- iv) Template for the website build but now needs populating – need a summary of what each group is working on and copies of their minutes
ACTION ALL
- v) Vinyl's going up on Mill Street Monday 18th May
- vi) Neighbourhood Plan lead agenda item at Town Meeting – JM to speak to BH about what is needed and action. ACTION JU – provide big map showing development areas
- vii) Next meeting Tuesday 19th at 3pm at TMC
- viii) Need to sort roadshows, posters, press coverage

AOB – Jenny asked for some debate about how much value the law courts give to NPs. Need to know that the Sec of State will give weight to plan and not all meaningless.

Date of next meeting NEEDS TO BE AGREED

Minutes – JM