

Pavenham Neighbourhood Plan

Minutes of Steering Group Meeting held on 26 October 2017

Apologies: Emma Pearce, Ian McKenzie,

Attendees: Brian Greenwood, Jim Russell, Peter Daniel, Margaret Telfer, John Stamford, Jon Bramwell, Peter Sharpe, Christina Holloway.

Neighbourhood Plan - Current Position

1. Since our meeting in June, there has been a meeting, organised by Cllr Alison Foster, of representatives of 20 plus local Parish Councillors to discuss the proposed 'new towns' needed in order to meet the Borough's housing demand. It is inevitable that we will get at least one of these sites in North Beds. We need to therefore examine our existing policies to ensure they include defensive measures particularly in relation to traffic, impact on the built heritage, and general amenity of the Village.
2. Ideally, we should be in a position to have a full draft Neighbourhood Plan written by the time the Borough Local Plan goes to public inquiry in summer/autumn 2018.

Emerging Bedford Local Plan

1. The responses to the Borough Council's consultation paper on the emerging local plan have been mixed with no individual 'new town' standing out as a preferred favourite. Individual responses from our neighbouring villages have also been mixed with some favouring more development than is required for their own villages. BBC are still working towards a housing requirement of 19,000 despite new government policy indicating that 26,000 are needed. This may cause then legal difficulties in terms of challenges from a disappointed new town developer. BG is speaking to BBC on this point.
2. If we want to make any sort of representation against the number of and/or location of these new towns, at the local plan public examination/inquiry, we will need to work as a united front with other nearby villages. Pavenham appearing at the inquiry on its own will in reality have little impact on the eventual outcome.
3. Timing – (a) The Mayor and the other 8 members of the Council's Executive will make the decision on which sites to take forward in the draft Plan, (b) Planners will produce a draft plan for public consultation identifying sites in Spring 2018, (c) Consultation responses will be considered and either the process will start again or, most likely, the plan will go to a Government inspector, (d) At a public inquiry (examination), the Government inspector will hear evidence from BBC, developers and other representations – including PPC and ideally a group of Parishes, (e) A report will be compiled taking up to 6 months (f) The inspector will make his recommendations to BBC as to how he believes the Council should proceed on the basis of the evidence heard, (g) BBC do not need to accept the Inspector's recommendations but must give reasons if they decide to go against them; (h) The local Plan will be adopted, allocating the relevant development sites, (i) Once sites are allocated, developers must then go through the planning application process.

NP policies

1. BG has issued guidance of writing policy justifications and several examples taken from existing Neighbourhood Plans. The justifications must explain the problem then justify the policy
2. BG will draft the planning/legal justification text for each of the policies once the supporting text has been drafted – e.g. NPPF, Local Plan and Planning legislation;
3. It was decided that members of this group should write the draft justifications then use the members of the working parties to edit/comment **Action – CH, PS, JB, IMcK, DB**
4. Format of text should be: Policy introduction followed by each individual policy followed by justification
5. In the light of the probable new towns, we may want to expand our policies to include traffic management and other such 'protective' policies. Ask Derik Bliss if he would like to deal with these and if possible conduct a traffic survey – **Action – MT**

6. Policy Responsibilities

Person Responsible	Policies
Brian Greenwood	Core Policy (CP1-CP4)
Peter Daniel	Built Environment (BE1-8) and Heritage(HE1-7)
Chrissie Holloway	Open Spaces (OS1-2) and Environment (EN1-2).
Jon Bramwell	Retails (R1-2) and Business and Commercial (BC4?)
Derek Bliss	Transport (T1) and Public Rights of Way (PRW1)
Ian McKenzie	Sports & Leisure (SL1-2)
??????	Housing (H1-5)

(Margaret Hulatt to be asked to lead Housing - **Action – CH**)

Village Consultation

1. Responses to our previous questionnaire and consultation were based on a Group 3 & 4 village housing requirement (15 – 20 houses) proposed by the Borough Council. That has been superseded by the Council's latest consultation paper proposal – ie no housing in Group 3 or 4 . As there is a legal requirement to produce a NP that is in general conformity with the Local Plan, we do need to re-consult the Village.
2. The Borough Council is looking at development of large sites(6,000 to 7,000 houses) at Twinwoods, Sharnbrook, Thurleigh and Wyboston in order to meet its housing needs.
3. In the light of these changes since our last village consultation and order to complete the NP housing policies, we will consult the village by means of a questionnaire.
4. As there will only be a couple of questions, it was decided not to purchase Survey Monkey but instead ask for paper forms to be completed. A map of the sites will be included. These will be distributed by our 'champions'.
5. Brian will draft the questions and email to this group for comment. It was decided that we should explain reasons for our preferred option as long as it was worded so as not to appear to prejudice personal decisions
Action – BG then all
6. We need to update delivery lists and find 'champion' contact details **Action - MT**

Timescale

1. MT to update with BG **Action – MT, BG**

Finance

1. The guidelines have changed so we now have up to the 31 Jan 2018 to apply for funds to be spent before 31st March 2018. Funding cannot be applied for retrospectively.
2. We have spent £2,039 of grant income since May 2015.
3. The Government has announced £22.8 million of additional funding for Neighbourhood Plan development for the period Apr 2018 to March 2022.
4. We will apply for funding to enable us to carry out a traffic survey, print questionnaire, print posters and hold 3 meetings in the village hall. **Action – MT**

Other Business

1. The Mayor is holding a meeting at Borough Hall on the 6th November to discuss the emerging local plan. A member of this committee and a parish councillor should attend. PS to follow up with details.

Date of Next meeting – Date and time to be agreed by email.