

# Pavenham Neighbourhood Plan

## Minutes of Steering Group Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Apologies: Christina Holloway, Jon Bramwell

Attendees: Brian Greenwood, Jim Russell, Peter Daniel, Margaret Telfer, John Stamford, Peter Sharpe, Emma Pearce, Ian McKenzie.

### Emerging Bedford Local Plan

Consultation on the latest Bedford Borough Local Plan 2035 has closed and will be considered by the Council's Executive and Full Council on 16<sup>th</sup> May. Full Council will decide if the Plan should be submitted to the Government in order for a formal local plan examination (effectively a local inquiry) to take place, probably towards the end of the year. Brian did speculate, however, that there had been concerns raised by Santa Pod in relation to the Sharnbrook new town proposal - essentially the risk of statutory nuisance, inability to mitigate noise effects, proximity of new housing etc - which if real could cause the Borough Council to withdraw its current draft plan and start again. This in turn would have serious time implications for the timing of our own Neighbourhood Plan – see below.

Brian explained that the time constraint facing the Council is that they must submit a draft Plan for consideration by the Secretary of State before the Government's new Housing Paper comes into effect (December 2018). The Borough Council hope that they will thereby avoid the need to comply with the Government's new proposed standard method for calculating housing need which will increase the Bedford housing requirement from 19,000 to 26,000 houses.

### Position of Neighbouring Parishes

A letter was sent to 20+ neighbouring Parish Councils setting out Pavenham's response to the Local Plan consultation in order to gauge if there is enough similar opinion to stage a joint attack. Sharnbrook was non-committal. Melchbourne, Clapham, Oakley and Cllr Alison Foster (Harrold Ward) all supported the idea. Like Pavenham, other parishes are waiting to see the Borough submitted Plan before finalising their own Neighbourhood Plans in that, by law, the neighbourhood Plan must be in compliance with the Local Plan – which is still "emerging", the old Plan being of little or no practical legal effect..

### Meeting with Government's Chief Planner re the NPPF & Neighbourhood Plans

Brian was at a meeting with Steve Quartermain, the Government's Chief Planner. Points that came from that meeting are:

- The NP must be in conformity with the new draft NPPF;
- There is no need to duplicate policies already in the Borough Local Plan – our document needs to be cut down as is too wordy;
- Instead of duplicating Borough Policies, text will be included that states the various Borough Plan policies the Pavenham NP supports;
- To be legally effective, a NP should be in compliance with the latest iteration of the Local Plan.

### Policy Justifications

Policy Justifications have been received from several committee members. These will be incorporated into the text of the policies and a rough draft produced and circulated for comment before the next meeting.

The housing policies will be revised by our external planning consultants – Adams Hendry.

A speed regulation policy for the Village will be written by BG.

**Action: BG**

### NP Timetable

Completion of the draft Pavenham NP and public exhibition must be in sync with the Bedford Local Plan which may be anytime over the next 8 months.

To ensure maximum legal effect, our draft NP should have passed through final consultation around the time that the Borough Council's draft Local Plan is being taken to the local examination. On present timescale that would be Autumn. If the Plan is delayed, we and other parish Councils may be pushed back into next year.

Brian emphasised, however, that any delay to the Local Plan need not delay our own NP preparation in that we would rather have a draft NP ready for final consultation rather than have to chase to catch up!

### Finance and Future Programme

An 'End of Grant Report' has been filed and the £1,472.00 under spend from our January funding returned.

We have £3,360 left out of a total grant allowance of £9,000 that we can apply for.

We will look at financing requirements at the next meeting but these are expected to include printing, exhibition costs, meeting room hire and consultant fees.

**Action: IMcK to get printing quotes**

### AOB

Annual Parish Meeting is on 26<sup>th</sup> May

**Date of Next meeting** – Possibly the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in June tbc

