

## **Pavenham Neighbourhood Plan**

### **Minutes of meeting of Steering Group held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 in the village hall**

#### **Apologies**

Emma Pearce, John Stamford, Christina Holloway

#### **Attendees**

Brian Greenwood, Peter Daniel, Jim Russell, Margaret Telfer, Peter Sharpe

#### **Bedford BC proposed new town site**

The BC had changed tactics on its Local Plan 20935 and now intends to submit its Draft Plan before 31.3.18 in order to be able to work on meeting a need for 19,000 homes by 2035 rather than the higher figure of about 26,000 which it might have to use if it delayed submission until after that date. In its consultation document it considered that the lower need could be met by development in and around Bedford, at Stewartby brickworks, and in Group 1 & 2 villages, plus one new settlement which it proposed should be the Unilever site at Sharnbrook.

MCT reported on the response to questionnaires sent out at the beginning of the month. Currently there was a 57% response and she expected that to eventually reach 60% which was considered very good. The responses showed South of Bedford and Wyboston to be by far the preferred sites for a new settlement with little to choose between the three north Beds sites.

#### **Impact of the new town site upon the Pavenham NP**

Since the BC draft Local Plan 2035 has proposed the Sharnbrook site for a new settlement, the Pavenham NP will have to include policies to protect the village from the potential effects of extra traffic, noise, rat-running, and damage to its historic buildings. Similar policies would be needed if either of the other two north Beds sites were chosen.

#### **Steps to be taken by the Parish Council**

The PC has organised a village meeting for Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 8.00 pm to present the results of the questionnaire and to seek further views on the number of dwellings to be included in the NP and the preferred locations of any development, plus the site of BC's proposed new settlement. The questionnaire results and views expressed at the meeting will form the basis of the PC's comments to the BC on its draft Local Plan 2035 – the closing date for which is March 5<sup>th</sup>.

The PC needs to establish whether parishioners – if they do not want Sharnbrook - want any of the other north Bedfordshire sites. If another site is to be preferred over Sharnbrook then the PC needs to give reasons why Sharnbrook is not suitable and why the other site is considered more suitable.

## **Steps to be taken by the NPSG**

Initial indications from the questionnaire were that the preference was for 0-10 and 11-20 new dwellings in Pavenham – the results for both number ranges being similar. The top 3 sites were Bury Farm, The Maltings, and plot at The Bury.

Policies and justifications have been or are being drafted for all categories except Housing for which there were no volunteers. It was agreed the consultant who is to be instructed to assess the validity of the draft plan should be instructed to draft the housing policies and their justifications.

MCT referred to the timetable for the NP and said that it will need revising. BG said the draft plan should be ready for submission in the autumn before the Examination of the BC's Local Plan 2035 begins.

## **Village Meeting**

BG said the village meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February should concentrate mainly on the BC's draft Local Plan rather than on the Pavenham NP. He said it was important to ascertain whether villagers wanted an alternative site in North Beds if they reject Sharnbrook. If that was the case, then it will be necessary to say why that site was better than the Sharnbrook site. Consideration should also be given to whether the remit of the PNPSG should be extended to include a watching brief on the emerging Local Plan.

The format of the village meeting will be for BG to summarise the background to the draft of the current BC Local Plan, then to go through each of the five proposed new settlement sites, and to finish with the implications for the Pavenham NP. It is hoped that all members of the SG will attend the meeting.

## **Policy Justifications**

Since nobody seemed willing to draft Housing policies for the NP it was agreed that the consultant should be asked to do so. Other policies for inclusion in the NP were being drafted by members/groups from the PNPSG. BG has received drafts from Peter Daniel and Derek Bliss. Further drafts are awaited from Ian McKenzie and Chrissie Holloway.

## **Timescale**

The draft Pavenham NP should be ready for submission for examination in the autumn before the Examination of the BC's Local Plan commences.

MCT has drafted a revised timescale which she will update after tonight's meeting.

## **Finance**

A further application for grant aid has been provisionally approved to cover consultant's fees, hall hire, and exhibition costs. The part of the application to cover a traffic survey has been disallowed. The money needs to be spent by 31.3.18.

## **AOB**

JG had said that he did not wish to continue to manage the NP website. Following a meeting between Dave Smith, PRS, JFR, and MCT it had been decided to shut down the NP website following transfer of the all the files and data on that website to the Parish Council website.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm. No date was set for the next meeting.