

Neighbourhood Plan
Steering Group Meeting Minutes
Thursday 30th April 2015

Present

Brian Hogan
Andrew Thomson
Paul Bates
Bob Edwards
Jackie MacArthur
Amanda Martin
Steve Foster
Laura Tilston

Apologies

Apologies were received from Peter Aston, David Brown, Tim McCloud and David Watson

1. Vision and Objectives for NP

Inserted the word community into the vision and will clarify what is meant by community infrastructure - **AT**

2. Prioritising Housing – Housing evidence benefit package

There was a long discussion on how best to deal with the housing issue and how to accelerate this part of the process. It was noted that Planning Inspectors would only start to take notice of a Neighbourhood Plan when it reached regulation 14, more likely regulation 15.

Timescale to deliver the housing section is likely to be September 2015, but, this is very dependent on getting more support and information from CEC. So far there has been no involvement with the master planners and input from neighbouring parishes is severely restricted because Somerford and Hulme Walfield haven't even started yet. However, it is felt that the other groups could be at stage 14 by October and therefore there was little point in treating housing in isolation.

Aecom is a consultancy provided by the government who may be able to help with the collating evidence base for housing and this work will be FOC. Aecom may also be able to assist in producing traffic surveys and modelling - **AT/BH**

AT will produce a first draft of the policy framework for all groups which will assist in giving them greater clarity and direction

BH to contact Caroline Simpson at CEC to let them know that the group is concerned at the lack of support and information emanating from Cheshire East

3. Link Road – planning applications

The economic development group in particular, expressed concern at the possibility of developers submitting planning applications for housing in the area above Radnor Park Industrial Estate, possibly resulting in employment land being squeezed out.

Concern was also expressed at the effect of the Link Road on Padgbury Lane which may become a busy through route to the Link Road. Suggested **BH** contact Caroline Simpson to request traffic modelling in the area.

4. Feedback from groups

a. Transport

Require some information on the bus routes and how the network operates in Congleton. Noted that the Town needs a plan for transport broken down into different areas of the Town.

Aecom will be approached to supply this information, although it may be possible to collect the data locally by using volunteers – **JU/PM**

b. Housing

Still concerned at the lack of credible housing numbers particularly in view of the fact that overall CEC housing numbers are likely to increase to 40,000 and this will have some effect on housing requirements in and around the Congleton area.

Housing Group is conducting a walkabout of key sites at 9.45am on the 6th May meeting at Jenny's house, all are welcome.

Next meeting of the Housing Group will take place at Plus Dane at 9.30am on the 3rd June.

c. Town Centre and Heritage

Have produced housing policies and objectives, but still looking to provide the evidence base. The group has shared information with Housing and Economic Development, but, do need feedback from the public to assist them in moving forward.

Again need more interaction with CEC officers and expect to meet up with CEC and David Brown shortly to get further insights of projects planned for the Town

5. Questionnaire

The Communications Group's output including the leaflet, questionnaire and website were discussed in some detail.

Some amendments were proposed to the questionnaire which will be progressed.

It was pointed out that the website will contain information on all the group's activities including minutes of meetings and evidence base. There will though be a private section of the website only accessible to group team members

Once the elections are complete a number of workshops will be arranged in some key locations around the town to explain the Neighbourhood Plan to residents

The Town clerk will also provide an update on NP at the Annual Town Meeting

6. Constitution and Protocol for signing

The Constitution was agreed and signed by those members present

7. Grants and support

A second government grant has been applied for totalling £7,700 and an application has been made to CEC for a grant of £6,490

8. Timetable

The schedule is to get to stage 15 by September/October, but, **AT** will produce revised timeline. **BH** to circulate the project plan for comment

9. Date of next meeting

9am 13th May 2015 (To be chaired by Bob Edwards)

Brian Hogan

30.04.15