

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Chairs Group

Meeting 1st September 2016

In attendance: D McGifford Chair , A Thompson, J Unsworth, P Aston, P Minshull, S Foster S Akers Smith D Jones

1. **Apologies** were received from D Watson (DW) , J MacArthur (JM) , Tim McCloud (TMc)

2. Presentation from Rachel Giles Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Rachel advised that they have supported 15 N Plans to date providing mapping of sites that may impact on potential development areas.

Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) are protected by law to conserve their wildlife or geology, the River Dane Corridor fits into this category.

A Site of Biological Importance (or SBI) is one of the non-statutory designations used locally by the Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Staffordshire County Councils in England to protect locally valued sites of biological diversity, Rachel advised that there were over 1000 sites in Cheshire that were SBI's in Congleton sites such as Astbury Mere Country Park, Houghty Brook, Biddulph Way and , Grasslands at Hulme Walfield fall into this category.

This type of mapped information is used as part of the evidence base for N Plans, the Congleton plan has not looked into this area at this stage.

It was agreed to ask Rachel to provide a quote for this work with AT providing the scope / boundary.

3. **Minutes:** of the Minutes from the meeting 26th July 2016 were approved

4. **National Local Policy update:** AT advised that :-

- Planning permissions granted far outweigh the amount being developed nationally, this is also the case in Cheshire East
- Start of the EIP in 2 weeks in Congleton Town Hall before progressing over to Macclesfield
- Examination of 20,000 representations not expected back before Christmas, potential revised local plan spring 2017

5. Draft Neighbourhood Plan Progress

- Agreed that there was a need to have a meeting with all chairs with a total focus to agree the style of the report –understand policies and to have a clear understanding of requirements for completion and agree how this will be achieved

6. Funding

- DM advised that there was still circa £30,000 in CTC earmarked reserves
- Agreed date for the meeting 6th October 2016 10.00am – 5.00pm

7. Date of next meeting

6th October 2016 10.00am – 5.00pm in the Bridestones Suite