

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Chairs Group

Meeting 26th July 2016 at 11.30 am

In attendance: D McGifford, A Thompson, J Unsworth, P Aston, P Minshull, S Foster

1. **Apologies** were received from Cllr S A Smith (SAS), D Watson (DW) , J MacArthur (DM) , D Jones (DJ)
2. **Minutes:** of the Minutes from the meeting 24th May **2016 were approved without amendment**
3. **National Local Policy update:** AT advised that :-
 - Government had increased its housing target from 240,000 up to 300,000 per annum
 - Reiterated its protection of the Greenbelt
 - Lack of mortgage finance is causing issues on housing development uptake
 - He will be attending a Local Plan Examination procedural meeting on the 23rd of August 2016
 - The Local Plan examination will be taking place from the 12th September for 2 weeks (at Congleton Town Hall) DM to liaise with AT re representations
4. **Draft Neighbourhood Plan Progress AT**
 - AT outlined the differences in layout from different groups and stated we needed to adopt a consistent approach
 - Requested that the Chairman review/ take the draft report to group members and feed comments back within 2 weeks
 - AT to provide cross cutting themes which need to be reviewed by each section
 - AT to generate a summary of the requirements for maps and appendices, JU to discuss with D J
5. **Funding**
 - DM advised that there was still circa £30,000 in CTC earmarked reserves
6. **Other issues**
 - SF raised concerns re evidence provided via the WYG Retail Study which contradicts the thoughts of the N Plan Town Centre Group.
It appears that it does not take into consideration the predicted housing growth in Congleton and also questioning the methodology.
DM advised that CTC had formally written to CEC re these concerns and was awaiting a response which he would follow up with CEC officer A Clarke.
SF suggested that there should be a formal meeting request as well (subject to their written response)
 - JU raised concerns about the location of an assisted housing scheme in the town centre – Worrall Street was put forward as a potential development area
 - PA / PM raised concerns with regards to the commercial and housing developments to the north of Congleton and how they interlink between themselves and the town centre – DM agreed to organise a meeting with Planning / Ansa - PA PM and SAS – this will be after the Local Plan Examination
7. **Date of next meeting**

1st September 9.30am Spencer Suite