

2016 June

11. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING REPORT: - Mr T Lockley had written the following report and circulated it to the members prior to the meeting:

- 5 members of the PC attended a presentation on Neighbourhood Planning, by John Preston (L&RCC) on the evening of 20th May.
- It provided a very useful introduction into this important topic.
- The purpose of this report is to briefly outline what Neighbourhood Planning (NP) is and the potential advantages it could bring to our parish.

What is NP?

- Through the Localism Act, NP introduced new powers to allow local communities to plan new development in their area and therefore help decide the future of the places where they live and work.
- An adopted NP forms part of the hierarchy of statutory planning documents – it sits immediately below the Local Plan, which is produced by the District Council – it has clout when it comes to help make decisions about new developments
- NP help shape the development of a local area in a positive manner – they can make development more appropriate and help decide what goes where.

What is a neighbourhood?

- It could be the whole parish or just part of it and, if it is felt necessary, it could include parts of adjoining parishes and even cross district boundaries.
- The initial NP area is submitted to the appropriate local authority for their consideration. They will consider the proposed area within the context of their developing local plans – Note, given the relationship Markfield has with Field Head and also the western margins of the Ratby PC area and even the southern boundary of Charnwood Borough Council determining our area could be interesting!

The process

- Define and agree the neighbourhood
- Build evidence base
- Develop policies and proposals
- Get the plan independently examined – make any suggested changes
- Community referendum – will be successful if more than 50% of those who vote support it.
- If supported, then H&BC will bring the NP into force

Timetable and support for the process

- Although the PC can lead the process, it's success will depend on the wider community (including businesses) buying into it and providing volunteers to help develop the NP.
- H&BC are legally bound to provide some assistance – they also have a service level agreement with the L&RCC to provide assistance too.
- You can apply to central government for a grant of up to £9,000.
- If needed you can buy-in professional support.
- It is a slow process – we're probably looking at a couple of years

Other benefits

- It will engage residents more with the village
- It may raise the level of interest in what the PC does
- It will help guide some of the PC's priorities
- It will provide background support for future grant aid applications