

2017 September

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING REPORT

Notes from the meeting with Richard Mugglestone - ref a housing needs survey to support the Markfield Neighbourhood plan

J. Williams, M. Bowler and T. Lockley met Richard Mugglestone (the local housing enabler) at the Community Library on 23rd August to discuss commissioning of a housing needs survey.

Mr Mugglestone works for Midlands Rural Housing, which is part of East Midlands Housing Association and is based in Coalville. Midlands Rural Housing's work in Leicestershire is jointly funded (over a 5-year period) by the District and County councils. Midlands Rural Housing also works with 3 Leicestershire based housing associations.

There would be no financial cost to Markfield PC for this work.

He explained the various level of housing needs surveys ranging from county down to parish level. Their findings all influence local plan policies, which in turn must be taken into consideration when producing a parish neighbourhood plan.

Bagworth and Thornton PC have, relatively recently, had needs surveys done for each village. One has also been undertaken for Newtown Linford PC.

Although, as a parish council, we're still at the preliminary development stages of our own NP, having a housing needs assessment undertaken now won't in any way prejudice our NP work. It will in fact provide an important evidence base for the NP.

Mr Mugglestone presented the survey questionnaire produced for Thornton. Although, for comparative purposes the format adopted for individual parish questionnaires remains broadly the same, some local customisation is possible. He would be happy to discuss this with us in due course.

Early on in our discussions Mr Mugglestone raised the matter of including Field Head. MPC councillors said they'd be happy to have it included, but only if Groby PC gave their prior approval. TL agreed to contact the Groby PC clerk. All

being well Groby PC will consider this matter at their meeting on the 4th September and their comments will then be presented at our meeting on the 5th.

Questionnaires would be delivered to every house/flat. This is a substantial logistical exercise and could either be undertaken using Royal Mail or the "Herald" – a financial contribution would be offered to the paper.

Some pre-launch publicity would be necessary so to allow for that and the preparation of the questionnaire etc. a November launch date seemed preferable. The aim would be to seek a 3 to 4-week response period.

Normally you'd expect a 30 to 35% response rate and it would take Richard's team about a month to undertake the analysis. That would mean we'd have the analysis February/March 2018, which should tie-in well with other aspects of the developing NP.

The evidence provided by the housing needs survey could lead to further discussions with Richard, about the appropriateness, or otherwise, of potential housing sites raised by the NP process.

Additional note:

Miles King (RM's boss) has confirmed that, having talked to the editor of "The Herald", the questionnaire could possibly be delivered with the November edition. Miles would also like us to consider whether the questionnaire should contain a question asking in which area they reside. There may also be a few minor changes we might want to consider making to it.