

2017 October

Report from the Neighbourhood Planning meeting of 27th September 2017

Present Margaret Bowler, Jacqui Williams and Tony Lockley (All MPC) and John Preston (LRCC)

Purpose of the meeting:

To bring John Preston up-to-date with where MPC is and to discuss how now to progress our parish neighbourhood plan

Purpose of this report

1. To inform members of MPC about the discussions of 27th September 2017 and how to progress work on the NP for approximately the next 6 months.
2. To seek Approval from the MPC for the establishment of a neighbourhood plan steering committee and a modest initial support budget of £250.

How to progress our Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

We are now at a very important stage, where having had our NP boundary approved by H&BC, MPC, as the ultimately accountable body, now starts the process of involving the wider community in the plan's creation.

The first stage in involving the wider community is to create a Steering Committee (SC), which will, throughout the plan's production, play a significant role in its creation. MPC has the powers to do this under section 102(4) of the Local Government Act 1972. The SC should ideally be composed of:

- Approximately 12 volunteers drawn from a cross section of the community – residents, business, social, health, religious, education etc.
- The Parish Council needs to be represented on the SC, but MPC members should be in a minority.
- There may need to be some initial funding from the MPC to support the SC, until it has applied for and received external funding.

Conduct of the Steering Committee

- The establishment of the SC needs prior MPC approval
- It would require its own terms of reference etc. – this would include declarations of interest. The terms of reference would be approved by the MPC
- The SC would require a chair, vice-chair and a secretary
- Voting rights for SC members are covered by section 13(3). (4)(e) or (4)(h) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- It could possibly develop a website, Facebook pages etc.
- All matters relating to the SC should be transparent and available to the public.

Aims of the Steering Committee

- To oversee the production of the NP
- To engage with local residents, businesses, providers of social and recreational facilities, health professionals, religious organisations; schools, local authorities (H&BC, LCC and neighbouring PCs) and others
- To establish specialist sub groups – e.g. housing, natural environment, historic environment, social, etc to contribute towards individual NP sections. The sub-groups would report back to the SC.
- To apply for external funding to help support its work – materials, room hire, refreshments, possibly wage for the secretary, hiring external consultants etc.

External support

This is available, at no cost, from the LRCC via their contract with H&BC.

Over the next 6 months, the LRCC can assist with:

1. Helping establish the SC – drafting the terms of reference, helping brief members, helping plan and support consultation events and develop a work plan
2. Helping the SC can apply, with support from the LRCC, to “Locality” a government supported body which can provide grants of up to £9,000 to support NP production. This process would take 3 to 4 months.

Note the government has recently confirmed additional funding from April 2018 until 2022 for this work