

2019 June

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN – Mr T Lockley

Markfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group report – 1st June 2019

1. The Steering Group last met on 28th May.
2. Progress is being made working with Mercenfeld school on a logo for the Steering Group. South Charnwood school has yet to be contacted.
3. The meeting focused primarily on agreeing a draft vision and aims for the Neighbourhood Plan. These are detailed below, for consideration and hopefully approval by the Parish Council, since it is the “Qualifying Body” for the Markfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan. When considering them it should be remembered that, as the Neighbourhood Plan progresses and more evidence become available, some adjustments to them may be required.

Vision

The Markfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan aims to ensure our Parish remains an attractive and desirable place to live meeting the needs of all, ensuring the community enjoys a good quality of life and feels valued and connected to each other. We aim to enhance and protect heritage assets, wildlife and the landscape in an environment where homes, businesses and facilities meet the needs of a contemporary rural community.

Aims

The aims are broad statements of intent. They clearly link to the issues we are seeking to address through our neighbourhood plan. The vision and aims provide the framework to develop the plan policies and proposals.

Environment

To protect and enhance the wildlife, environment and heritage assets.
Recognising the need to plan for climate change and also ensuring public open spaces are accessible to all and of a good quality.

Businesses

To continue to support the local economy, sustaining existing businesses and providing opportunities for business diversification and new businesses to become established on suitable sites in the Parish.

Housing

To ensure that opportunities for residential development in the Parish are managed to provide the types and styles of housing that are needed, taking into account design, energy efficiency, climate change and the need to meet the requirements of all residents.

Transport

To maintain and enhance sustainable transport links within, to and from the Parish. To support moves to reduce vehicle speeds and manage parking in residential areas along with transport generated noise and pollution and increase the opportunities for safe walking and cycling.

Infrastructure

To maintain, enhance and where required expand the existing provision of facilities and services and ensure appropriate new provision is made for any future developments both within the Parish and in the surrounding areas.

4. The meeting also considered the “Employment Land and Premises Study” consultation report prepared for the borough council by the BE Group. As far as practical the Steering Group’s comments (detailed below) follow the questions posed in the email of 14th May from HBBC’s Senior Economic Regeneration Officer, Daniel Britton:

Redevelopment potential – the site of the old service area café and shops, which forms part of the MOTO/Travel Lodge service area adjacent to M1 Junction 22

Possible employment development sites

- Area AS1033 – as identified in the SHEELA could possibly be partly developed alongside the above-mentioned site. But the area contains blocks of woodland, which despite needing management ought to be retained. It's also unclear what, if any impact the possible future expansion of Cliffe Hill quarry might have on this area.

Feedback from the Neighbourhood Plan Stakeholder meeting was that:

- There might be some employment growth from agricultural diversification – new uses for agricultural buildings, woodland management operations etc.
- Employment needs to be relevant to the local community
- Promote local jobs, local enterprise, not large units
- Policies to support small businesses/homeworking – creating office space.
- Although not strictly new office development, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) is aware the Markfield Medical Centre's current premises cannot be expanded.

The NPSG has increasing concerns over both current and future HGV movements through Markfield Village – Crown Crest being the current example – and would not support of new developments, which added to these concerns.

With major growth in the Hugglescote, Ellistown, Coalville and Ashby areas, issues of congestion, noise and air pollution along the A511 from Bardon Island to Junction 22 and, on the A50, around the Field Head roundabout, will worsen. Highway infrastructure is struggling to cope with the existing usage.

The Steering Group hopes the Parish Council considers the above comments an appropriate response. The closing dates for comments is 19th July 2019.

5. The next Steering Group meeting is scheduled for 25th June. It's hoped a decision will be made then about which consultancy to appoint, to help develop the next stages of our Neighbourhood Plan.

Tony Lockley

Chair MPNPSG 1st June 2019