

## **MPC Meeting March 2020**

### Neighbourhood planning report

#### **Markfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group report – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

The Steering Group had two meetings this month.

##### **11<sup>th</sup> February meeting**

1. It was reported the Rural Community Council (RCC) was continuing their analysis of both the “Household” and “Youth” questionnaires and transcripts for both would be ready before the 18<sup>th</sup> February meeting.
2. Discussions with infrastructure providers like the schools and the surgery are necessary to ensure that, where appropriate, Neighbourhood Plan policies can reflect future needs and perhaps help draw-down funding to support them.
3. Trying to open-up discussions with Mercenfeld school is proving difficult, however a discussion has taken place with the Practice Manager from the surgery.
4. Having agreed that it was vital to try and speed-up progress with our plan, further funding from “Locality” needed to be sought to cover the planning consultants costs up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. This matter was discussed with the Parish Council’s Vice-Chair and, given the minimal risk to the PC agreement was reached to proceed with a 2<sup>nd</sup> grant application. With the speedy assistance of our planning consultant an application was submitted, and approval received on the day of the meeting.
5. Issues around HBBC’s lack of a 5-year supply of housing land were also discussed as was the disappointment of some village residents, who had hoped they might have been offered a social housing tenancy on the Jelson’s development, but ultimately weren’t.

##### **18<sup>th</sup> February meeting**

6. The purpose of this meeting was to provide an opportunity for Parish, District and County Councillors to meet with the Steering Group plus their professional advisors, to discuss:
  - the questionnaire analysis,
  - the work being funded by the 2<sup>nd</sup> “Locality” grant
  - other issues relating to our developing Neighbourhood Plan
7. John Preston from the RCC presented the questionnaire analysis and provided a written precis of the main findings. He stressed that, as is always to the case, some of the findings will go to support the Neighbourhood Plan’s development, whilst others are better suited for incorporation into a “Community Plan”, should the parish council want to develop one.
8. The remainder of the meeting focussed on: problems raised by the lack of a 5-year housing land supply; the status of Neighbourhood Plans within the planning system

and the Steering Groups priority work programme between then and the end of March 2020.

9. The latter will principally cover the Steering Group undertaking a systematic assessment, using agreed criteria, of all the potential housing sites within the parish. Once complete it will provide a robust piece of evidence to help guide both the location(s) and size of any new housing development(s).
10. Once this work is complete it will be sent to the Parish Council for it to consider, and hopefully approve. That process might be assisted by another joint Steering Group/Parish Council meeting.
11. Notes of this meeting, plus copies of the both the full and precited questionnaire analyses have been provided to the parish council.

**First “Locality” grant**

12. The end of grant paperwork has been submitted to “Locality” and approved by them.

Thanks again to Markfield PC for their continued support.

Tony Lockley (Chair MPNPSG) 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020