

## **MPC Meeting May 2020**

### Neighbourhood planning report

#### **Report on progress with the Markfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan**

1. The work Colin Wilkinson undertook to prepare a pre-submission draft plan has provided an excellent basis on which the NPSG can build.
2. The “lockdown” has prevented the NPSG having its normal meetings. Although a Microsoft Teams portal has been established, the inability to have face-to-face discussions is a limitation at this critical time in the plan’s evolution.
3. NPSG members are now working through the draft plan, incorporating any changes as are felt necessary to both give it a local flavour and fully match the priorities identified from the questionnaire analysis.
4. The contract cover support from the RCC and Colin Wilkinson end on 31<sup>st</sup> March. It was primarily funded by a second “Locality” grant. The end of grant report was submitted last month and has now been signed-off by “Groundwork”, who act as agents for “Locality”.
5. There is still a substantial amount of work to undertake over the remainder of 2020. Whilst the NPSG can undertake some of this alone, having professional support would make the plans passage towards final approval, much less problematic.
6. The basic “Locality” grant is up to £9,000. Last financial year Markfield PC received two grants totalling £8,383. That leaves £740 which could, in principle, be applied for now that the 2020/2021 “Locality” grants programme has reopened today. An enquiry will be made to “Locality” to see if any other of their Neighbourhood Planning grant streams can possibly be utilised.
7. Given how valuable Colin Wilkinson’s assistance has been, he was asked to provide cost estimate to help steer work on the plan to completion. His estimate was £4,000 (exc VAT)

Tony Lockley

Chair MPNPG 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020