

## Markfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan

### Minutes of the 30th April 2019 Steering Group meeting held at Markfield Community Library

**Present:** Rosie Woodland; Margaret Bowler; Julie Grace; Jacqui Williams; Tony Lockley; Ann Cook; Jhanvi Shukla

1. **Apologises:** David Sprason; Mike Williams; Annie Duggan; Julie Harper
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** – Approved
3. **Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda** – none
4. **Declarations of interest** – none
5. **Stakeholder event report** - JS ran through the report, which she and John Preston (RCC) has prepared after the Stakeholder Event. As with the Drop-in Event report it forms part of the evidence base for the SG's work. JS had also prepared a summary of the top issues raised at the event. The top 5 issues were: Traffic and Transport; Facilities and Services; Renewable Energy; Housing and Footpaths and bridleways.

An important issue is to create a vision for the parish. JS advised that the SG ought to produce a "vision statement". This could be in the form of a sort paragraph or, as in the case of the Sheepy Magna NP, as 9 theme/topic boxes. **Action – develop a vision statement**

TL will include a summary of the Stakeholder Event in his May Parish Council report and will also send the clerk a copy of the full report. **Action TL to produce for the 14<sup>th</sup> May PC meeting**

The group thanked JS for their work on the Stakeholder Event report.

6. **School presentation and logo competition** – RW reported that she had made a well-received presentation about the NP to children at Mercenfeld School. The school have requested a copy of her PowerPoint presentation. She also has a simple NP questionnaire for either individual children or the school council to complete. Mercenfeld school are also interested in helping design a logo for the SG. It was agreed that the wording on it should be Markfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan, as opposed to Markfield Neighbourhood Plan. Sough Charnwood school are yet to respond about getting involved. MB thought the "Queen Bees" might also be interested in completing the questionnaire – **Action MB to talk to the group organisers**

7. **Comments on HBBC's supplementary planning guidance – "Good design guide" –** TL had previously circulated a link to this consultation document to all members. The consultation timeframe is tight. If approved the document will form supplementary planning guidance for HBBC. The document makes reference to the short "National Forest Design Charter". Since Markfield falls within the National Forest the charter's aims need to be borne in mind as the NP is developed. It was noted the charter included reference to "wood fuel heating systems", which might now be dropping out of favour because of air pollution concerns. **Action – TL will try and prepare a response on the "Good Design Guide" before the consultation closing date.**
8. **County Council Transport Strategy Consultation –** just to note that it will be available quite soon and, with the Crown Crest planning application currently being considered is very topical.
9. **Steering Group admin –** with the need to appoint a consultant to help with future work getting closer, the group took the opportunity to ask JS more about the service(s) the RCC could provide.

The most significant points were as follows:

- a. As well as assisting the SG with matters like the questionnaire, they also act as the portal to whichever consultant they're working with. That doesn't mean the SG has no direct contact with the consultant, but rather working with the RCC helps to streamline that part of the process.
- b. Although the RCC is currently working with their associate planner on a number of NPSGs around the county, capacity isn't currently an issue.
- c. Although their associate planner is a sole trader, the RCC can access additional planning assistance when needed.
- d. One example quoted of the RCC's/Associate Planner projects was the Queniborough NP.

In addition to the above, Jhanvi said there appears to be a hiccup at "Locality" (who provide the core funding for NP work), which is delaying new grant offers. Whether this is linked to "Awards for All" no longer funding NP work, or government funding policy changes etc. is unclear. She thought it would get resolved but at least in the short-term, grant applications would be delayed. I've had a look online to see if there's any further info on this and can't find anything.

10. HBBC NP SLA – TL reported that he's only just received a copy of this document. It relates to the support HBBC will or will not provide parish councils (the qualifying bodies) when it comes to developing NPs. Interestingly NPSGs aren't mentioned in the SLA. It's believed that Markfield PC hasn't yet seen this document. **Action TL to mention it in his NP report for the next PC meeting**

11. TL said that he'd been formally informed by HBBC that the planning officer Rachel Dexter would be the formal contact for our NP
12. Date of next meeting: **28<sup>th</sup> May 7.p.m. Community Library**

Signed

Steering Group Chair

Dated