

Markfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Minutes of the 24th September Steering Group meeting held at Markfield Community Library

Present: Jhanvi Shukla; Annie Duggan; Ann Cook; David Sprason; Jacqui Williams; Mike Williams (part); Tony Lockley; Barrie Gannon; Colin Wilkinson (RCC's associate planning consultant). Helen Ward (MPC admin assistant)

Apologies: Rosie Woodland; Julie Grace

Minutes from the last meeting – one minor correction

Declarations of Interest – None

Appointment of new secretary – With Julie Harper having resigned a new secretary is needed. A volunteer is sought.

Parish Questionnaire: Discussion on the content of the adult questionnaire focussed primarily on the following topics: Housing; Traffic and Transport.

Housing – CW said this was always the most controversial topic. There were key issues:

- 1.How many houses are you planning for?
2. Where will they go?
- 3.What type of housing?

1.HBBC isn't currently able to say how many new houses they think Markfield might be expected to accommodate up to 2032. We know how many houses/flats have been built over the past 10 years and it would be reasonable to use that figure to project how many might be needed between now and 2032. **TL has the figure for the last 10 years.**

2.Although the group has copies of the SHEELA plans and assessments prepared by HBBC, they only cover sites proposed by developers or landowners. They don't cover all possible housing sites and additionally, the assessments tend to have been done as "desk exercises" and thus may not present a true picture.

Putting the SHEELA sites in the questionnaire could thus give a misleading picture. With the settlement boundary for Markfield village itself drawn very tightly around the built limits of the current settlement, most new housing will have to go outside that boundary.

It was agreed that it would thus be better to talk about the general locations of potential housing sites.

3.The evidence from last years housing needs report combined with the results from the questionnaire will provide a good basis for judging what type of housing is required.

Since housing tends to be controversial topic it's best to position that section part-way into the questionnaire.

Traffic and Transport

There are restrictions as to what NP's can achieve when it comes to influencing matters in these areas. It is therefore important not to mislead people by giving the impression that the NP can deliver major improvements. **Adjust traffic and transport questions to take this in account.**

Possible prize draw:

It was agreed not to offer a prize to encourage folk to complete and return the questionnaires.

Locality Grant Application: HW has submitted a "Locality" funding application on behalf of the parish council. She was subsequently asked for more details about consultants' costs. Further information on those has now been provided.

NEXT MEETING OF THE NPSG: 22nd October– 7pm Markfield Community Library.

Signed

Steering Group Chair

Dated