

## Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020

### 7pm at Markfield Library

Present Tony Lockley (Chair) David Sprason – Jacqui Williams – Barry Gannon – Julie Grace – Rosie Woodland – John Preston – Di Lockley

1. Apologies Ann Cook – Mike Williams

2. Minutes from last meeting – Accepted

3. Matters arising from the minutes

Figures for the “Youth” questionnaire were outwardly disappointing. This was in part due to many of the South Charnwood pupils mistaking the “thanks for completing the questionnaire” as the end and not activated the submit button. The school were informed but the staff did not have the time for the pupils to redo them as mock examinations were taking place. DS said the exercise had raised the NP’s profile with them and there had been much discussion with groups at South Charnwood. JP commented that an overall percentage for the “Household” questionnaire of 18% was a reasonable.

4. Declarations of interest - None

5. Approval of new Steering Group Member

Di lockley was accepted as a member of the group and will be recording the minutes. She completed and submitted a declaration of interest form.

6. Progress with questionnaire analysis

Jhanvi Shukla has inputted all the raw data and it is now ready for analysis. A copy of the raw data has been sent to TL

7. Hinckley & Bosworth “Open space Review Consultation”

There is a 31<sup>st</sup> January deadline from HBBC for a response to their green space questionnaire a copy of which has been previously circulated to SG members and MPC.

Open space review – it will inform parts of the new district plan, which HBBC is pushing ahead quickly due to planning pressures. Documents have been received for two types of spaces in Markfield. The maps HBBC sent were missing a lot of data. TL has prepared some updated maps to show the missing areas and these have been sent to HBBC and MPC. JW asked TL where he had accessed the maps and TL said through the Parish on-line website. TL stated that the inaccuracies were quite

alarming – e.g. part of Jubilee Field - Raunsliffe Field not identified – Jelson estate not on the map.

In relation to the District Plan and open space provision, TL said that the October 2016 HBBC “Open space and recreation study” states that, in terms of quantity, “there is a deficiency in all open spaces typologies, with the exception of natural areas”. TL stressed the importance of this statement, when it comes considering open space provision relative to any new development.

TL felt that it would not be easy to make the required quality judgements without seeing the “green space” data from the questionnaires. He also said that a draft response would need to be signed-off by Markfield Parish Council first. JP informed the group that one of his colleagues was focusing on the analysis of the “green space” questions, in order to facilitate the response to HBBC.

Analysis was to involve not just ticks in boxes but broad responses – raw data which would involve a colossal amount of work to translate.

## 8. Planning Pressures

Margaret Bowler has heard that, given the lack of a 5-year housing land supply, if HBBC isn't careful, when it comes to determining housing planning applications, it could be put into “special measures” by the government. HBBC is also reported as having failed to agree the Section 106 agreements for the SUEs at Barwell and Earl Shilton. The slow development of these two sites is increasing the pressure for other housing sites to be approved elsewhere. Having a Neighbourhood Plan, even if its policies are only in draft form, can help influence planning decisions in our parish.

It is believed that various sites in Markfield may be put forward for housing development sooner rather than later. The two fields ‘Geary Fields’ at Ratby Lane Markfield Lane junction have recently been surveyed on behalf of an unknown developer. Taylor Wimpey contacted TL before Christmas in relation to the site adjoining Jacqueline Drive. He advised them to contact Parish Council, but they have not yet done so. It's understood that Jelsons have approached the Highways Department about potential highway problems at the Leicester Road-Ratby Lane junction should they look to extend their last development. More bungalows, adjacent to the retirement village on the Ratby Lane site have recently been approved.

Although four general areas for possible housing were listed in the “Household” questionnaire, JP cautioned that we needed to be looking forward to 2036 to identify possible reserve sites. Hill Landed the old tip? TL has asked the County Councillor to find out about the nature of the Jelsons highway discussions.

The possible development of a substantial new distribution site at Wood Farm – between Stanton-under-Bardon and Bagworth could see increases in traffic on the A511/A50 and some rural roads. DS stated that freight out of East Midlands Airport was growing and it was now the UK's second biggest freight airport with much night flying. TL said that a feeler must be put out to Stanton Parish Council as to their response to the above application.

9. Possible meeting with PC/District/County Councillors/Planning Consultant

In view of the position HBBC finds itself in and the strong likelihood of new planning applications for housing in the parish being made soon a joint meeting between the NPSG and MPC is being arranged. It is hoped that both the parish's HB district councillors will attend, along with parish councillors and possibly our County Councillor. Colin Wilkinson – our planning consultant will also be attending. The meeting has been arranged for 18<sup>th</sup> February, 7 p.m. at the Community Library.

10. Beginning to write the draft plan

An increasing evidence store has been made available within the Neighbourhood Plan and now it must be used. BG commented that all the future developments were inevitably going to influence the infrastructure of the village putting strains on the doctors and school traffic. RW commented that the doctor's area stretched beyond Markfield to Stanton & Thornton. DS stated that not so many pupils were now coming from Leicester Forest East but numbers at South Charnwood were not falling they were still rising. 3 more classrooms had been added and the old caretaker's house had been converted to be used for pupils with special needs,

TL stated it was essential to use the evidence to gain more evidence e.g. check footpaths etc. Hill Lane was becoming increasingly dangerous for pedestrians.

RW stated the Patient Participation Group at the doctor's surgery was meeting next week. The surgery was looking at the whole appointment system to try and improve it. RW was willing to contact email Laura Gibson the Practice Manager about their plans for the future.

DS stated that South Charnwood had a strategic five-year plan and he chairs the Staffing & Infrastructure Committee. School would take as many pupils as possible.

TL was the contact Mercenfeld School to ascertain their future plans in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Plans.

In terms of drafting it, TL thought the Neighbourhood Plan should be split into smaller chunks. – Green Areas – Historical links etc. JP stated that it was important that all members contributed their own knowledge of the Parish. Local knowledge would be a vital contribution. The first draft would be a draft with gaps with the

planners being able to offer advice for the gaps. The HBBC Local Plan, when completed would be quite a complex document, whereas our plan needs to be more 'people friendly'. JP stated that New bold Verdon had been completed and we would be able to refer to it for reference. TL agreed to email copies of completed plans to members for reference.

**11. Locality Grant application – invoicing and preparing the next application**

JP confirmed that the invoice for this year's work would soon be with MPC.

Given the potential development pressures the parish could be soon under, moving the plan along as fast as possible might be advantageous. JP said it would be possible to apply for additional "Locality" funding for this financial year, should it be thought necessary. That application would have to be submitted before 31<sup>st</sup> January. JP would ask Colin Wilkinson if he had the capacity for any more work and if so revised fees would be calculated.

It was generally agreed there was no point in rushing ahead with a poor-quality document.

**Date of next meetings                    11/2/2020 7pm Community Library**  
**10/3/2020 7pm Community Library**

Signed by.....Chair MPNSG

Date .....