

## **Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan – Held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

### **7pm at Markfield Library**

**Present** Tony Lockley (Chair)– John Preston (RCC) Mike Williams - Jacqui Williams – Barry Gannon – Julie Grace – Annie Duggan - Rosie Woodland — Ann Cook - Di Lockley – John Preston (Shaw Lane replacing Annie Duggan)

1. **Apologies** David Sprason
2. **Minutes of last meeting** - approved with a later adjustment adding that Craig Middleton (Markfield Parish Council) had apologised for not being able to attend the joint consultation on 18<sup>th</sup> February.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes.**  
None
4. **Declarations of interest any outstanding ones.**  
TL needs to provide John Preston (Shaw Lane) with a declarations of interest form to complete
5. **Feedback from the 18<sup>th</sup> February meeting with the Parish Council and County Councillors/Planning Consultant**

Annie Duggan commented on how hard Andy Furlong was working to prevent long-term negative effect planning and support others in this approach. She commented that Markfield-Shaw Lane was not isolated, and Andy was very busy elsewhere too. TL had been to the last Parish Council meeting and suggested that it would be advantageous for them to meet again to discuss the Markfield Housing Provision plan.

### 6. **Feedback from Burbage Neighbourhood Plan Public Inspection**

It's very unusual for a Neighbourhood Plan to be called-in for a public inspection by a planning inspector. The main issues covered were as follows:

- A NP cannot seek **no** housing growth
- The Inspector stated that if group ask for minimum housing figure from HBBC and they cannot provide it, the group must be allowed to make their own housing assessment need bearing in mind it must be sustainable and meet future perceived needs.

- Referring to H&BC's lack of a 5-year housing land supply about which their officers were very uncomfortable, the Inspector said that it is not Parish's fault there are no housing figures. HBBC will not have any before ending this year! Then they will allocate across Borough to meet their strategic numbers.
- NP's need to work to the same local plan timescale – i.e. 2036 as HBBC
- Trying to stick to current settlement boundaries won't be allowed, unless you have lots of spare land within your current boundary

## 7. **Presentation of and discussion on the draft Markfield Housing Provision report**

Colin Wilkinson had prepared two housing related documents, which had been previously circulated to most NPSG members. Whilst Colin couldn't attend the meeting, he was anxious that these two documents were discussed and, if possible, agreed.

### Markfield Housing Provision report

- TL stated that Colin Wilkinson was still waiting for HBBC to send him the latest proposed site allocation plans – these sites would be additional to those we already know about.
- CW has prepared Housing Provision report based on the findings of several County and District level documents, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Markfield Parish housing needs assessment.
- His report concludes that, taking into account housing built, or otherwise committed (131), in the parish since 2016, and the level of housing growth predicted across the borough, between now and 2036 the parish could be allocated some 250 dwellings.
- CW has contacted LCC Highways department for information. They have replied that the only current area of highway concern is the Field Head roundabout.
- CW has also contacted the relevant Clinical Commissioning Group for their comments, but has yet to receive any
- CW is yet to receive a response from the LCC's Education Dept about future pupil numbers and the ability of local schools to accommodate them.
- TL has also contracted the Bradgate School Trust 3 times but has yet to receive a reply. An approach through the Mercenfeld Governors was suggested as an alternative.

## Site Assessment Framework

CW had prepared an assessment table, covering 24 different sustainability objectives, which, when worked through on a site by site basis would form a sustainability appraisal for each. That would then allow judgements to be made as to the relative development merits of each site.

**The group agreed to let CW know that we are substantially happy with the Housing Provision report.**

### 8. Housing site assessment day – 14<sup>th</sup> March arrangements

Meeting to be held in the Parish Council Office at the Community Centre 10.00 - 5.30  
TL said that the process would be looking at many of the same criteria as used by HBBC in their SHELLA site assessments. Those were done as primarily a desk exercise, whereas we will be able to add-in our local knowledge too.

One disadvantage of having several small new developments, rather than one larger one, is that the former route could reduce the chance of the Parish gaining new facilities.

TL informed the group that on Saturday we are going to be working through the initial & subsequent ideas and replicating the check list. There are between 15-20 sites to be viewed.

On Saturday the group will have access to paper maps and the electronic Parish Online maps too. The assessment decisions will be made collectively and cannot be biased by individual prejudices.

### 9. Locality Grant Update

MW stated that money has been paid into the Parish Council Account.

The end of grant report will need to be submitted to Groundwork before the end of this financial year.

In due course MW/TL need to consider what funding might be needed next financial year.

### 10. Date of next meeting

Although we did set an April meeting date, under the present circumstances, we can't hold face to face meetings until notified it is safe to do so. The group will thus have to try and work together remotely.

Signed

Steering Group Chair

Dated