

Ickleford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Committee meeting minutes

Thursday 17th November 2022, 8pm at The Old George

Committee member attendees: Ruth Bryer, Louise Peace, Bob Overett, James Tizzard, and Mike Willoughby

Apologies: Sam Zalin-Miller and Mike Jones

Other attendees: Six members of the public

Minutes of the meeting of 28th Sept 2022 approved

Update

- The North Herts District Council (NHDC) Local Plan has been adopted
- The Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Consultation closed yesterday. This following an extension requested by NHDC to allow them to respond after the Local Plan adoption meeting.

Concerns voiced by attending residents

- Several residents from Duncots close and elsewhere attended the meeting. The consultation had raised awareness of Local Plan site IC1 and they flagged potential issues with this, along with the indicative masterplan created by AECOM.
- Information was given on the Neighbourhood Plan and how it relates to the Local Plan. We reassured residents that the Design Codes masterplan was merely an example of how a future developer might apply the design codes to the site. As far as we knew, no planning application had yet been made.
- The residents' concerns, which they had also given in their online consultation feedback, included:
 - Waste water management – there are ongoing problems with drainage and sewage. Residents would like the Neighbourhood Plan to require future developers to ensure that there is adequate water infrastructure. The issue is not restricted to just this area. A resident from elsewhere in the village had been informed that the system is currently at capacity.
 - The density of the possible new housing on the site and its potential impact on the close. For example, traffic and parking problems were envisaged
 - How the Neighbourhood Plan will be policed
- In addition to seeing how the Neighbourhood Plan might address these concerns, we recommended residents liaise with the Parish Council and make full use of opportunities to feed into the planning process should any planning applications be made.

Other consultation feedback

- We received 25 responses, including 12 via Survey Monkey.
- NHDC are still to return comments on policy SD2 regarding new housing development.
- Sally Chapman, our planning consultant, has been commissioned to review and amend the Neighbourhood Plan in response to the consultation. We will value her expertise in knowing what changes we are required to make and how to address others.
- We went through the feedback received, focussing on the points most likely to be contentious. These included:
 - A request by NHDC to remove the policy on maintaining separation from Hitchin

- Whether the Neighbourhood Plan is allowed to ask developers to consider the impact of traffic from new developments beyond the parish
- The role of the Masterplans and the possible need for clarity in the Neighbourhood Plan over their indicative nature, e.g. in relation to the Bowman's Mill site. (As a neighbour of the property, Louise noted a potential conflict of interest in relation to discussions of this site)
- Addressing water/sewage capacity
- Requests from HCC to change content relating to a reserve school site in IC3

Finance

- The budget variance form has been accepted by Groundwork. Costs since the last meeting were:
 - £62 hall hire
 - £144 Parish Online
 - £108 Wix website hosting
 - £460 printing
 - **£774 Total**

Date of next meeting: to be confirmed