

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Ickleford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

Wednesday 27 February 2019 at 8 pm in the Village Hall (small room)

**Attendees:** Ruth Bryer, James Tizzard, Mike Jones, Bruce Parker, Louise Peace, Mike Willoughby

**Apologies:** Ray Blake, James Carlyle, Clari Garrido-Lobo

**Minutes of the meeting of 16 January 2019 approved.**

### **Matters arising**

- Form feedback: There were no further forms in the box kept by the shop, leaving the total number of responses at 43, including some online.
- From her talk with Clare Skeels and subsequent study of templates received from Locality, Ruth had been able to appreciate the mass of detail that would be required in planning the initial character assessment of the village. The example of Pirton's showed how much work this might involve. She wanted to return to Clare (who at this stage would probably not attend Group meetings) and find out how we could best influence planning decisions. Learning what information is the most useful might affect questionnaire design.

### **Reports of working groups**

- Land ownership and usage - Bruce would approach the Land Registry for the names of Ickleford's principal landowners. Louise has obtained a grant of £90-100 for this, which we should aim to spend in the current financial year.
- Transport – A report of progress to date was presented. Topics discussed included traffic calming in Arlesey Road. Since there was uncertainty as to how this might best be accomplished, residents could be asked to express their choices in the next questionnaire.
- Traffic volumes for various times of day at more than one site had been measured by Hertfordshire Highways in several years between 2008 and 2018. Figures they considered most informative would be recorded by Louise and Mike W.
- Road safety was in question at a proposed crossing towards the central end of Turnpike Lane because of its proximity to the bend by the Green Man development. The danger this posed was of concern to the PC, and it seemed important that more than one way of dealing with it should be considered.
- Improvements in bus services were being pursued by the PC.
- Given the pressure from Government for increased use of electric propulsion, new developments should provide an adequate number of charging points. Calculating this for each on the basis of the number and sizes of properties would give us figures with which those proposed by developers could be compared.
- A similar check should be made on the space allowed for residents' parking. Discussion of the area and site(s) needed for public parking would be needed.
- Public amenities – Work in progress on the services the village should offer would be presented at the next meeting.
- Housing and new developments – A preliminary meeting of the working group, which has been joined by Pauline Gardiner, was held. A key issue is how to focus time and effort to deliver the best results for the village. A character assessment will probably be useful. Financial support for this can be sought.

- The group, along with Louise, Mike W and Philip Crowe, took a walk between Upper Green and the new development in Turnpike Lane, via Greenfield Avenue. The group took note of layout and housing styles, and considered Ickleford's character.
- The working group raised the issues of affordability and housing type. It may be possible to ask for a portion of new housing to be made available to those with a connection to the village. Whether or not this might be desirable was discussed.
- Maintaining the character of the village, ensuring sufficient parking in new developments, good design and building standards were some of the other points covered.

### **Finance**

- Louise reported that an application for £230 to be spent in this financial year was now with Danielle. She said we were still awaiting invoices for our use of the room in the village hall on the 21st November.
- Funding needed for the year's activities from April would depend on what we aimed to do, and so there was some urgency to decide on this. There were training packages to take up in addition to funding when these seemed appropriate.

**Date and time of next meeting:** Wednesday 27 March 2019 at 8 pm.