

Minutes of the meeting of the Ickleford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

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

Attendees: Ruth Bryer, James Tizzard, James Carlyle, Pauline Gardner, Mike Jones, Bruce Parker, Louise Peace, Mike Willoughby

Apologies: Ray Blake

By invitation: Clare Skeels, (Senior Planning Officer, North Herts. District Council (NHDC))

Minutes of the meeting of 27 February approved

Matters arising

- James T and Mike J had studied Locality guidance and Pirton Neighbourhood Plan's policies for amenities. It appears that, as in the Pirton plan, this could simply be one list of current amenities and another of desired new amenities, or improvements.

Questions of Clare

- These were based on a list circulated previously by Ruth.
- Clare said that the only Neighbourhood Plan (NP) as yet completed was Pirton's, although those for Wymondley and Preston were well advanced.
- It is important to know which aspects of parishioners' wishes cannot be covered. Clare cited traffic management and green belt land as examples. However, such topics could be listed for the record in an annexe to the main document. Committee members felt there was a need to be very open with residents about what the plan can and cannot achieve.
- Housing in developments was highlighted as the most important aspect on which the plan could expect to have some influence. If appropriately evidenced, the neighbourhood plan can have policies on design, housing mix, self-builds, open space, parking standards and charging points. Asked if NHDC had criteria for calculating requirements for parking spaces in invitations to developers to bid, Clare replied that this was so. It seemed that the system evidenced by Pirton in preference to one proposed had been accepted.
- The Pirton Neighbourhood Plan has a policy limiting new developments to 30 houses or less. We probably could not influence development size for allocated sites, however it may be possible to introduce a policy for prospective sites that could be subject to speculative development.
- Listing locally important buildings, and designating local open spaces to raise their status, are other areas to look at.
- In terms of amenities, we could include policies to support development, e.g. for a Pre-School. The school can also be included as a topic. However, allocating land would be a big step and involve a lot of work.
- In relation to issues we can address, we were told that the clearer the plan is about how we want development to take place, the better it will be. We should think about what is missing in the Local Plan, what we would like to add to it.
- Including a wish list of projects for community money from developers to be spent on was encouraged. One committee member indicated that some developers are very keen to engage with and spend money in the community.
- Louise enquired of Clare when NHDC expected to know from Locality the sum allocated for the new financial year. She replied that in 2018 Council was not informed of this until May and added that this year it might have to wait even longer.
- The advice now received suggested we should all read Pirton's NP and review our own project plan.
- Clare was thanked warmly for setting aside time to provide the guidance we had requested.

Finance

- Louise reported that we had enough money to meet any invoices expected up to 5 April.

Date and time of next meeting: Wednesday 24 April.