

Laxfield Neighbourhood Development Planning Group Meeting
Wednesday, 6th February at the Royal Oak, 7:30pm

Present: Sue Innes, John Worthington, Barry Cable, Quentin Cowen, Candida Wingate, Emma Gray

Apologies: Lisa Auchterlonie

1. The next stage

JW opened with recap of what's happened over the last year, stating he felt the local focus had shifted from quantifiable outcomes, i.e. the number of houses that might get built to qualitative outcomes, i.e. where and how they're built.

The Group wanted to achieve two things – getting the Neighbourhood Plan made, which needs to be done in a relatively short space of time, and taking a longer term (20 year) view of how to support the community.

We're in a good position now with SI on Parish Council, BC in the role of liaison between the Group and the Parish Council on financial matters and DA on movement and taking the strategic view, CW doing community engagement.

Therefore, JW feels it's time for him to step back from chairing the group and take a broader, external strategic role.

The group voted and it was carried unanimously that Sue Innes takes over as Chair.

2. AECOM

SI in touch with them as we wait the results of their site visit.

3. Parish Council Planning Meeting

Members of the group had attended the special PC planning meeting, to hear of two applications:

1/ Bickers Hill -13 properties behind the existing 10 which are currently being built- which was not supported by PC

2/ 13 more properties in Cullingford Close , off Mill Road - which was supported by the PC

MSDC's claim that it has the necessary five-year building supply is out for consultation; in the meantime, the presumption is that MSDC say 'yes' to any and all planning applications.

4. Local nature reserves

SI explained that the District Council can devolve power for establishing local nature reserves to the Parish Council. Whilst these do not carry as much weight as Sites of

Special Scientific Interest, they do help to protect habitats and, by extension, might safeguard some areas from being developed.

In the light of responses to the household questionnaire, the group thought that this could become one of the Community Actions within the Plan and that we would like to support such devolution.

4. Need and demand/CIL

There was a brief conversation about how one establishes housing needs and the concern that desk research into village demographics would not necessarily reflect actual housing needs.

The merits of establishing a Community Land Trust, to respond to the housing needs of local people were acknowledged and it was suggested that this could be included in the Neighbourhood Plan as a policy.

BC raised a point about CIL and that with a Plan in place the community was entitled to 25% of the CIL Levy payable on a new build.

6. Plan Contents

Group members reported back on their progress on specific elements of the Plan.

BC - Listed Buildings and the Built Environment. He has researched development since the war and established that 221 new houses have been built since WWII – approximately 50% of housing stock.

DA circulated a paper on Transport & Movement, that included reference to a centralized delivery service.

EG presented a list of existing Amenities which will be informed and developed by results from the Business Plan.

CW continues to draw out possible Community Actions from the results of the household questionnaire and will prepare a piece for the Parish Magazine. With reference to walking and cycling, JW suggested asking residents what they needed to keep safe.

JW on Housing said it was important that Ian Poole is involved and we also need someone in the group to take it on. JW would like to run a couple of workshops to look at what people want to build with.

7. Next steps

14th February at 7:30 in the Royal Oak. JW to run workshop on Planning Framework in which we revisit the underpinning vision and principles. JW to send out note about it.

BC waiting to hear back from Ian Poole concerning amount of hours already worked, after which BC will report back on finances.

The meeting closed at 9:30.

Next meeting: 14th February at 7:30 in the Royal Oak