

Minutes of Laxfield Neighbourhood Planning Group Meeting, 3rd October, 2018

Present: Jo Lofthouse; David Alchin; Barry Cable; John Worthington (chair); Sue Innes; Candida Wingate; Ian Pettitt

Apologies: Lisa Auchterlonie

1. Meeting with Ian Poole

SI & BC reported back on their meeting with Ian Poole, which they found very useful, not least as it clarified several issues, e.g. what he meant by ‘constraints’ - which transpired applied to conservation areas. He thought the time scale was ambitious, but achievable.

Regarding the status of the Plan, he informed SI & BC that as long as the Plan was reviewed every two years it would remain in force. This review could be achieved via the Annual Parish Council meeting and possibly supported by a group set up to monitor the development and implementation of the Plan.

Regarding the Village Character Appraisal, Ian Poole advised it be kept as a separate document, rather than be incorporated into the Plan.

The Appraisal deals with what makes Laxfield ‘special’ – it should be a document in its own right and then elements of it used in the Plan, to inform and support planning policies, etc.

A brief conversation regarding the budget and implications of having slightly less than originally requested, plus the difference between finances for AECOM and for the consultant, Ian Poole.

2. Meeting with developers of land on Framlingham Road

A working party from the Neighbourhood Planning Group met with New Hall, the agents dealing with the land opposite the village school.

New Hall is a ‘site promoter’, not a developer. The working party agreed that, whilst not much was gleaned from the meeting, it had been a positive opportunity to speak with the promoter and that it was important to maintain relationships and be open to discussions with everyone.

Brief discussion regarding village envelope boundary and acknowledgement that there is a clear process via MSDC and further consultations with parish, should the village ever wish to move envelope boundary.

It was agreed that options that would inform policies and proposals would emerge during the process of creating the Plan and as we considered the ‘critical sites’, e.g. the playing field and the Guildhall.

3. Questionnaire

Sue Innes had prepared and printed the questionnaire and circulated copies to members of the group.

CW to collate list of volunteers and send details to Sue, to arrange distributing the questionnaires.

There will be boxes for collecting completed questionnaire in various venues around the village, as well as the distributors returning to collect them in person.

The young adult questionnaire will be distributed at the same time. It was proposed that every household should receive 2 household questionnaires and one for young adults, with clear instructions as to how they could order more, if necessary.

It was acknowledged that the deadline for the Call for Sites published by the Parish Clerk in the newsletter and on the website would have to have to be extended, to bring it into line with the deadline for completing the questionnaires.

AECOM will be briefed once the Call for Sites is complete – giving them details of how many sites had been identified and any constraints.

A second briefing will take place following analysis of the questionnaires.

The group agreed that, in common with some other villages in the area, we would produce some boards, reminding residents to complete the questionnaire.

Barry volunteered to create the artwork for them.

David, Ian and John offered to put up the signs around the village, but would wait to do it until a) they had talked with the Parish Council about it and b) the questionnaires had been distributed.

4. Work Plan & Working groups

Sue produced a list of working groups, each led by a member of the Planning Group, who in turn was responsible for recruiting other members onto the working group.

The remit for each group is informed by the Report Outline, circulated by John at an earlier meeting, which in turn was based on the contents of the Lawshall Village Neighbourhood Plan, which John suggested we re-read.

Sue also produced a detailed work plan and it was agreed that we should meet again to talk through it in detail.

Working meeting (all members) to take place on 11th October 2018 at the Guildhall.

5. AOB

John asked about maintaining public profile, e.g. a monthly article in the Parish Newsletter. It was agreed that, as and when there was news to relate, we would continue to submit articles to the Newsletter.