

## Laxfield Neighbourhood Village Plan Group Meeting

**Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> July, 7:30pm at the Low House**

Present: Johnn Worthington (chair); Ian Pettitt; David Alchin; Sue Innes; Candida Wingate; Jo Lofthouse; Barry Cable; Lisa Auchterlonie; Nick Woodhead

### 1. Update on public event: analysis of comments; preparation of questionnaire

CW reported back briefly on the event, which will be the last public engagement event until after the questionnaires are distributed.

JW outlined the key issues emerging from comments made at the Public Event, including: -  
retaining village character; types of development; space and support for small businesses; movement and accessibility; individual/community wellbeing; collaboration, communication and commitment.

JW also produced a SWOT analysis, based on these issues.

**NEXT STEP: JW to develop the key issues/SWOT for circulation to the group by next meeting.**

There was a conversation about the various methods and benefits of using different sorts of software to produce the questionnaires and analyse the resulting data. We have the money with which to buy the Community Action Suffolk software, but little advice on whether or not it's worth the price of £250.

IP reported back that he had asked Ian Poole's advice, and it appeared to be 'mixed'.

SI offered to put together a group to input data and help analyse outcomes, as such she was asked to take charge of deciding which software to use.

JL and LA offered to look at the CAS software, together with SI, and see if it was viable for our needs. It was agreed that SI would have the final decision as to what software was ultimately chosen.

**NEXT STEP: CW to arrange a trial period for using the Community Action Suffolk software, as previously discussed with Sarah Mortimer. This to be done as soon as possible so that Sue can report back on it at next meeting**

### 2. Site identification; appointment of mentor; review of sites applying for planning

MSDC issued a press release earlier in July, announcing they have a 6.5 year housing land supply; as such Clause 47 ceases to be relevant, the presumption on planning applications should be to refuse, rather than consent and planning authorities must revert to previous policies.

The development on Mobb's Meadow is outside the village envelope and as such should be refused – although there was always the chance of appeal by the applicant and the local authority would be wary of any associated costs.

LA said the case might be different if the proposal was for social (affordable) housing, as the village had identified a need for such housing; LA had been involved in that survey. This was the first the Planning Group had heard of the survey and asked for more details.

**NEXT STEP: LA to find details relating to the Social Housing survey, conducted in 2008 (?) and forward to JW and IP**

If the group can identify appropriate criteria, based on information gathered thus far from public consultations, for selecting sites for development in the village, then this criteria could be included in the public questionnaire and comments invited.

In discussing the appointment of the mentor, it was confirmed that the Parish Council would contract the services of Ian Poole to support, guide and generally help the Planning Group to produce an appropriate Neighbourhood Plan.

We need to make the best use of his time and as such it was agreed that JW, Tony Oakes and the Parish Clerk would meet with Ian Poole to discuss his contract and that JW would be the point of contact for Ian Poole for the Planning Group.

**NEXT STEP: Parish Clerk to arrange meeting between Ian Poole, Tony, John W. and himself**

3. Future programme

JW volunteered to sketch out a programme of work – a skeleton Neighbourhood Plan, using the current Gantt chart as a framework and seeing whether or not the milestones we have set are achievable in the time allowed.

**NEXT STEP: JW to produce outline programme of work, for circulation at next meeting**

There was suggestion of other questionnaires being used as a model and Lawshall was suggested as a possible.

Finally, there was a conversation about the relationship between the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Planning group, with some suggestion that it would be appropriate for a member of the Neighbourhood Planning Group to join the Parish Council.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned to the garden.

**Date/time next meeting: Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 7:30pm at the Royal Oak**