

MINUTES of a meeting held at **10.00 am on Friday, 27th October 2017**

Venue: The Baptist Church, Village Street, Harvington

Present:

Chris Haynes	Chairman
Gill Smith	Local Facilities and Leisure Group
Chris Rushworth	Housing Group
Kathy Haynes	Admin and PR
Les Hancock	Transport
Clive Allen	Environment Group
Maureen Hall	Secretary and Environment Group
Neal Pearce	Consultant

1. Apologies: An apology had been received from Tim Swift.

It was decided that it was unnecessary for Neal Pearce to remain for the rest of the meeting, as the Steering Group was still editing the Plan, and he duly left.

2. The Minutes of the last meeting were approved. There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

- The Locality Consultant had reported back on his assessment of the development sites, and that he agreed that, of the sites put forward, Site A was the most suitable. He had suggested that we share information on sites with the Local Authority, but it was decided that it would be better to present all the information together in the final Draft Plan, rather than 'drip feed' items beforehand.
- The Consultant had also suggested that it might be a good idea to prove that the site and the development project at Site A would be commercially viable, but in view of the fact that our own Consultant had advised against discussing anything with Landowners until we are in the Consultation process, this was rejected.

4. Consultation Leaflet

- Gill had contacted three companies, including the one recommended by Neal. They will be posting out some sample leaflets, and were the middle quote. (Quote A - £400; Quote B - £250 and Quote C - £180). They can also do the printing, but felt that A3 was a bit large.
- We need to ensure that the brief is very specific and detailed, as mistakes will prove costly to rectify.
- The leaflet will need to:
 - Inform Parish residents of the six week Consultation period, and let them know how they can comment. Its main purpose is to maximise the number of residents who get involved in the Consultation process.
 - Essential information will include: a map of the village centre; a brief description of what the Neighbourhood Plan is for; the dates of the Consultation; where further information can be found.
- The current timeline of 13th December is adequate, but the sooner we can get the leaflet out, the better.
- The Logo will be the Church Spire.

- It was decided that, before any decision was made, the Steering Group should look at the various website of the three companies, and return next week to make a decision.

5. Action List

The Action List was reviewed and amended to reflect the work done during the week.

- CH reported that he had now divided the Plan into two documents, both of which seemed to work well.
- The difference between 'Agricultural Land' and 'BMV land' was mentioned. BMV land is 'the Best and Most Versatile' of agricultural land, and as such is most likely to be protected from development. It would appear that there is a high likelihood of Harvington being surrounded by BMV land, the poorer quality land being out towards the Lenches and down by the river side.
- Because of the designation of BMV land it is possible that there may be a conflict of Policy between protecting this, and the development of Site A. However, the development of BMV land for housing is not precluded, if it makes more sense to build on that, rather than on poorer land.
- We need a bit more evidence regarding the housing analysis, although throughout the document there are links back to the Residents' Survey.
- The legislation does allow for 'buffer zones' around World Heritage Sites, and we think this would also apply to Conservation Areas, but we cannot find the correct wording. We will need to refer this to Neal Pearce.
- We also need to include a reference to the work we undertook with Jack Hanson, and the subsequent work done to produce a record of the village as it is now.
- It was decided that we need to involve Worcestershire Wildlife Trust in establishing habitats within the Parish. However, we will need the consent of the landowners, and CH undertook to write to them in this regard. MH had already spoken to Steve Bloomfield of WWT, and it was decided that, as soon as we have the necessary permissions, we will contact him again and 'get the ball rolling'.
- It was also pointed out that Harvington is in close proximity to the SSI 'Windmill Hill'. We need to ensure that nothing that is done in Harvington will impact on the wildlife there. This could also apply to The Lenches, which have a 'Special Landscape' designation.
- MH undertook to conduct another Facebook survey on Wildlife, to update the information and produce a map.
- Policy IH1-3: CR reported that Neal's comments have been taken into consideration, and the policy amended accordingly. However, the Working Group did not feel they were justified in setting minimums for housing growth. This had not been included in the Housing Survey, there is a danger that doing so could lead to uncontrolled growth, and the evidence base we have does not support the setting of minimums. Discussion took place regarding this, and it was decided that CR and GS would reword the policy to emphasise that, although unrestricted infilling would still take place, larger developments would be subject to more control.
- **Aspirations.** Many of the policies contained items which were 'aspirations' rather than policy. It was agreed that each of the Policy Sections should contain a separate 'Aspirations' section.

- **School Expansion:** GS was requested to contact the Land Agent for the Diocese to enquire as to whether they are still in agreement with the plan to allocate allotment land for the expansion of the school.
 - **Environment and Heritage:** Actions are still ongoing.
 - **Transport:** We need to seek clarification from NP as to exactly what he wants. LH will get a reference for the planned cycle routed between Harvington and Evesham.
- 6. Date and Time of next meeting:** 10.00 am on Friday, 3rd November 2017, at The Baptist Chapel, Village Street.

The meeting closed at 11.25 am.