

**Meeting notes from
Maidwell With Draughton Parish Council
Neighbourhood Planning Steering Committee
on
13th June 2017, at 7.30pm
at
Bosworth Farmhouse
Draughton NN6 9JQ**

1. Introductions and apologies

Apologies were received from Robert Lankester, Alan Wagstaff, Keith Stanton.

Martin Field of One A Planning was welcomed to the meeting.

The Steering Committee membership is:

Alan Wagstaff
Dawn Wright
Fabienne Fraser-Allen (Ward Councillor)
Keith Stanton
Nicholas Wilson
Paul Sanders-Hewett
Paul Turland
Penny Munro (Parish Councillor)
Pete Redman
Robert Lankester
Stefano Nuvoloni
Terry Mortimer

2. Governance (Chair and Secretary appointments, Declarations of Interest)

Paul Turland volunteered to be Chair; he has experience of chairing a commercial board; he was elected nem con.

Pete Redman offered to be Secretary carrying out administrative work and being the main link with our proposed planning consultancy. This was agreed.

We agreed that all Steering Committee members should complete a form to create a Register of Interests.

3. Selection of planning advisor - results

One A Planning, based in Kislingbury, are the preferred consultant subject to grant funding. Paul Sanders Hewett, Penny Munro and Pete interviewed three consultancies, and reported back to the meeting on the various strengths and weaknesses of the candidates.

One A Planning are happy to help us with the grant application – see below.

4. How we handle potential conflicts of interest

After a full discussion, we agreed that membership of the Steering Committee should be open to all residents but that when conflicts of interest arise on our agenda they should retire from that part of the meeting.

Paul T, Pete and Fabienne to draft an appropriate form for the Register of Interests.

5. Vision and Objectives

We looked at the Vision and the Objectives sections extracted from several, advanced or made, nearby Neighbourhood Plans.

We agreed we needed a short Vision statement (or sentence). Penny felt we should make this positive, and about keeping the villages and countryside vibrant and attractive. Penny and Stefano will prepare a draft.

We felt that the Objectives (of the NP) should be as brief as possible and grouped by themes, perhaps structured around the feedback from the village confines project:

“ensure that development in the parish area is appropriate in setting and character,

and that the scale of any growth is modest and in keeping with past trends in rate of growth,

and that development is kept within the confines unless it is an appropriate development for rural business”.

We agreed extra mention should be made about the need for recreation space, and for traffic management and parking.

Nick offered to take the lists of objectives from the other NPs and to reorder these into themes. These could give shape to the “gathering views” survey, of all residents and businesses, which we will discuss at the next meeting.

Dawn emphasised that we should not pre-empt the outcome of the survey, and that our objectives should adjust according to the survey responses. This was agreed.

6. Pros and Cons of Allocating land

We discussed the advantages and disadvantages of allocating land within the NP. The main advantage was that we could determine the best use of allocated sites and this would be a material consideration for any development application for those sites. The disadvantages are that it would add to the work and time to prepare the NP (for which additional funding might be available); that we would have to be careful to give unbiased consideration of all potential development sites and it was not clear that we would know in advance which these would be; that the detailed working up of plans for a site may prove contentious particularly with neighbours; and that we would have to do the work thoroughly and systematically to satisfy the Inspector (Weedon Bec failed on this aspect). The alternative is to set out general principles of land use and design in the NP which should be considered as part of any application for planning consent.

We agreed that we would not aim to allocate land in the NP.

The one possible exception could be the idea of a village green and school parking area in Maidwell. This idea already had support from the feedback from the villages’ confines exhibition in March. It needs

Careful handling to avoid raising expectations and to ensure we approach the land owner (Merton College) with a realistic proposal that is worthwhile to them. It was agreed we would add questions about this in our Gathering Views survey, and if it has wide support then it could be an allocated site within the NP. Meanwhile some background exploratory work on the feasibility of a village green would be undertaken by Paul SH and Terry. Martin Field recommended that our process for exploring this option needed to be documented well and show “sequential thinking”: Is a green needed and wanted? If so which are the possible sites? What are the options for layout and access on each site? Which is the best site and option for a detailed site assessment? Etc.

7. Budget and grant application

We looked at a draft budget for preparing the NP and paying for our planning advisor. It was agreed that Martin and Pete would look in more detail at the requirements and conditions of grant funding from Locality/My Community (who have government funds to distribute for NPs) and make an application. We should maximise our ability to fund a quick preparation as a long drawn out process will run the risk of “losing people” and be more expensive.

We do not plan to set up separate bank accounts, etc. The funds would be held by the Parish Council. Pete will arrange systems with the PC for making payments.

It was agreed that getting a grant application in was our top priority at this stage.

One A Planning will provide a detailed fee proposal to include within the grant application.

8. Project programme and next tasks

The draft programme was considered. The importance of gathering views at the start of the plan preparation was stressed. To some extent the survey result will dictate the work we have to do and the timetable.

We now have the area of the NP formally designated by DDC and the map is on the DDC website.

Next steps are:

- Funding application
- “Gathering views” survey preparation
- Refining our draft vision and objectives
- Communicating the NP work and progress with all residents
- Report to 12th July PC meeting

9. There was no other business

10. Date of next meeting is 18th July at 7.30pm at The Old Rectory, Draughton Road, Maidwell.

The meeting ended at 9.35pm