

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
STEERING GROUP HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2016 AT 7.00PM
AT WISTASTON MEMORIAL HALL, CHURCH LANE, WISTASTON.**

Present: Cllr.J.Moore (Chair)
Cllr.Mrs.J.Bond, Cllr.D.Millington, Cllr.G.Roberts, J.Bennett, D.Clews,

In Attendance: Dr.R.Giles, Mr. A. Thomson & Mr.C.Todd.

37 APOLOGIES

Mrs.A.Cross, Cllr.R.Westwood.

38 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made in respect of any items on the Agenda.

39 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2016, were approved.

40 DR.RACHEL GILES to discuss the NATURAL ENVIRONMENT including GREEN SPACES REPORT

Dr.Giles introduced herself; she works for the Cheshire Wildlife Trust as Ecology and Planning Manager. Recent projects have included working with Mr.Thomson on several neighbourhood plans, and with James Baggaley of Cheshire East on local wildlife sites; also, she has been involved with the HS2 Ecology Design Team.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust can offer:-

- 1) Neighbourhood Plan mapping showing habitat distinctiveness.
- 2) Mapping to identify wildlife corridors, which could lead to Ecological Network Mapping/Planning.
- 3) Write biodiversity policies to comply with NPPG and Local Plan.

Mr.Thomson stressed that these were important items that Cheshire East had not carried out and were not covered by the Green Gap element of the Local Plan.

Dr.Giles said her report could cross-refer to the Landscape Character Assessment carried out in 2009, and the work done by Econet in 2003; there would be no need for extensive on-site surveys, because there were six or seven detailed sources already available. Cllr.Roberts suggested that reference could also be made to the Woodland Management Plan carried out by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust in 2000, and David O'Hara's annual bird reports.

Dr.Giles said the report would take six to eight weeks to produce, and the cost would be approximately £650. After discussion, it was agreed that Dr.Giles should proceed with the Natural Environment Report, and she was requested to confirm the cost to Mrs.A.Cross, and submit her bill before the end of March; (the report will be complete by the end of April 2016).

41 MR. ANDREW THOMSON, PLANNING CONSULTANT - discussion and approval of Foreword, Scope of the Plan, Vision for Wistaston and Aims as detailed in the Draft Framework, previously submitted

Mr.Thomson stressed that the Neighbourhood Plan Draft Framework should include the Parish Plan and details of Community Facilities.

Cllr.Roberts advised that the Scope of the Plan had been granted Neighbourhood Plan status on 5th May 2015.

Mr.Thomson said he was concerned that the Government had amended policies that would reduce the strength of Neighbourhood Plans.

Mr.Thomson reported that Cheshire East's new Local Plan was now available to view, and he would be advising ChALC on the weaknesses of its Green Gap policy. There will be a public consultation on the Local Plan from 4th March to 19th April 2016, and local Neighbourhood Planning Groups need to express their views. The Green Gap policy needs to be stronger, (see Local Plan page 107 PG4a); ChALC will be issuing a briefing note. The Green Gap needs to be extended west and northwest of the Crewe and Nantwich area. Adrian Fisher has stated that the Local Plan will be approved by the end of 2016, but Mr.Thomson thinks March/April 2017 more likely.

42 HOUSING POLICY REPORT - Decision who to employ

Mr.Thomson recommended that Wistaston do not employ a private company, (as Stapeley have done), but ask Rhiannon Monaghan (Senior Neighbourhood Planning Officer for Cheshire East) to prepare a report (similar to the one she has done for Weston & Basford), for no charge. He would be happy to meet Ms.Monaghan with Mr.Todd and ask her to do a "Housing Needs Report". It was agreed that Mrs.Cross will contact Mrs.Monaghan and invite her to the next meeting.

43 APPROVAL of DRAFT TIMETABLE as previously submitted

The Draft Timetable was discussed, and the following items agreed:-

- 1) Mrs.Cross to ask Tom Evans for a copy of the relevant Cheshire East Mapping Information, then Mr.McIntosh can put it on the website.
- 2) The acre/osci/cca information is now on Google Drive.
- 3) Apply for CEC Community Rights funding (£8000 max) after March 2016; and also apply for Cheshire East grant.
- 4) Consult with landowners and developers in May/June 2016. (Only need to listen to developers for 10 minutes.)

Mr.Clews said it may be helpful to have some notes, when speaking to residents; Mr.Thomson said it was essential to record the questions the public asked.

The draft timetable was approved.

44 UPDATE on the INFORMAL PUBLIC HEARING on 4th February 2016 on Witters Field

Cllr.Roberts gave his report on the hearing; his conclusion was that the Inspector's decision could be finely balanced.

Mr.Lucas said he was concerned that neither Gladman nor Cheshire East gave much

weight to the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. Mr.Thomson said it would have little weight until it reached stage Regulation 14; (Bunbury's plan had passed Regulations 14 and 15, and goes to referendum on 10th March 2016, and it now carries some weight).

45 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

After discussion, the following items were agreed:-

- 1) Mr.Moore will put a flyer "Neighbourhood Plan - Results of Survey" in the next issue of the Roundabout.
- 2) Mr.Moore to include presentation/discussion of the Neighbourhood Plan at the Annual Parish Meeting on 14th April 2016. Mr.Thomson said he would be able to attend if required.
- 3) Parish Council to organise a stall at the Fete (18th June 2016) and Duck Race (3rd September 2016).
- 4) Mr.McIntosh to consider promoting plan on unofficial Community Council Facebook page.
- 5) Parish Council to consider polystyrene "Neighbourhood Plan Zone" signs, similar to Bunbury.
- 6) Parish Council to consider promotion of plan on beer mats.

46 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WEBSITE

Mr.McIntosh gave his report, said he had updated the website, and it was ready to go live. It was agreed the website could go live this week. He will advertise the website on Facebook and Cheshire East's website.

Mr.McIntosh said he would put the Swan logo on Google Drive.

47 SURVEY RESULTS REPORT

Cllr.Bond gave her report on the results of the Residents Survey.

Mr.Thomson said he was very pleased with the results, and recommended that the responses to Questions 1 and 2 be included as part of the flyer in the next issue of Roundabout, (see 45-1 above).

48 TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr.McIntosh was asked to submit his invoice.

49 NEXT STEPS

Mr.Thomson said there was a need to talk about the Green Gap, and make representations on the Local Plan. At the next meeting, he would report on his discussions with Rhiannon Monaghan, and there was a need to talk about Housing. He considered that it was too early to talk to developers.

Mr.Todd to advise members of the Group about the Rural Network.

Mr.Moore said there was a need in the future to draw up a list of landowners, traders, etc in Wistaston.

50 NEXT MEETING

The next meetings will be held on 16th March 2016 and 20th April 2016.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.