

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN  
STEERING GROUP HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16TH MARCH 2016 AT 6.30PM  
AT WISTASTON MEMORIAL HALL, CHURCH LANE, WISTASTON.**

**Present:** Cllr.J.Moore (Chair)

Cllr.D.Millington, Cllr.G.Roberts, Cllr.R.Westwood, J.Bennett, D.Clews, W.Heath,  
D.Lucas & R.McIntosh.

**In Attendance:** Mrs.A.Cross, Rhiannon Monaghan, Mr. A. Thomson & Mr.C.Todd.

**51 APOLOGIES**

Cllr.Mrs.J.Bond, N.Green.

**52 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

**53 MINUTES**

Cllr.Roberts said the following names may be missing from those present on some of the emailed copies: N.Green, W.Heath, D.Lucas & R.McIntosh.

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2016, were approved.

**54 RHIANNON MONAGHAN - HOUSING POLICY PRESENTATION**

Rhiannon Monaghan introduced herself; she works for Cheshire East as Senior Planning Officer; part of Cheshire East's offer to assist with the Neighbourhood Plan is to help prepare the Housing Policy. She then gave a detailed presentation, which was then followed by a general discussion, from which the following points were noted:-

- 1) Wistaston and Willaston are included in the settlement of Crewe , which has provide 7700 new houses in the period 2010 - 2030.
- 2) Wistaston does not have to include a specific number of new houses in its Neighbourhood Plan, but should consider the types of houses (bungalows, two storey dwellings, affordability, etc) and the needs of the residents.
- 3) Cheshire East's Local Plan is in two stages - the first is strategic policies and the second is site allocation and detailed development control policies.
- 4) 158 houses in the plan period up to 2030 are to be distributed across the whole of the Crewe sub area, including the villages of Wistaston and Willaston.
- 5) Cheshire East do not allocate sites containing less than five dwellings.

The following actions were agreed:-

- a) Rhiannon Monaghan to draft a Housing Report based on census data.
- b) Mr.Thomson to draft a Housing Policy for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Mr.Thomson passed round a map from the current Local Plan, which showed the site of the proposed development on Land to the north of Wistaston Green Road as a "Committed Site", following Harlequin's successful appeal.

**55 MR. ANDREW THOMSON, PLANNING CONSULTANT - Future Policies**

After discussion, the following points were noted:-

- 1) Mr.Thomson handed out copies of “Draft Green Gap Policy 16.03.16” for the Group to review and submit comments at the next meeting.
- 2) Mr.Thomson will circulate a draft Housing Policy by the end of the week.
- 3) Bunbury’s and Brereton’s Neighbourhood Plans have gone through the referendum process.
- 4) The Neighbourhood Plan must define the boundaries of the Green Gap.
- 5) Mr.Thomson handed out copies of a Landscape Assessment Form which, when completed, will complement Rachel Giles’ Natural Environment Report. He stressed that it was important to include suitable photographs of the local landscape in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 6) Cllr.Roberts mentioned the usefulness of Cheshire East’s “Landscape and Settlement Toolkit” from their recent workshop. Cllr.Roberts to email copies for discussion at the next meeting.
- 7) Mr.Thomson passed round a copy of Bunbury’s Neighbourhood Plan; it is available online.

## **56 TREASURER’S REPORT**

Mrs. Cross gave her report; printing was overspent, but she was arranging with the grant provider to offset it against underspent items; £843 remaining from this financial year’s budget would be spent before the end of March 2016. An application for next year’s grant will be made in April 2016.

## **57 MAPPING INFORMATION - Mrs.Cross to provide details**

Mrs.Cross said she had sent out emails stating that an Ordnance Survey licence had been issued allowing Wistaston Parish Council to copy maps.

It was agreed that Mr.McIntosh would put maps on the website.

Mr.Thomson said that good historical maps were available from National Libraries of Scotland.

Cllr.Roberts to email Mr.Thomson a copy of a 1965 map, marked up with housing developments since 1965.

## **58 COMMUNICATION WITH GENERAL PUBLIC - Stalls at local events**

After discussion, the following items were agreed:-

- 1) Mr.McIntosh to arrange for a stall to be provided for the Neighbourhood Plan Group at the Village Fete on Saturday 18th June.
- 2) Volunteers to man the stall from 1pm to 4pm are Messrs. Clews, Heath, Lucas, Moore and Roberts.
- 3) Mr.Thomson to send Mr.Moore a copy of the flyer prepared by Bunbury summarising the results of the questionnaire, with a view to preparing something similar for the Village Fete.
- 4) Ideas for a sign to place on the stall to be submitted at the next meeting. Mr.Clews said signs take two weeks to be produced.

It was agreed to discuss at the next meeting, arrangements for the Duck Race on Saturday 3rd September.

**59 WEBSITE/FACEBOOK PROMOTION - Mr.McIntosh to provide details**

Mr.McIntosh reported on the following items:-

- 1) Jonathan White has agreed that his photographs may be used on the website.
- 2) Currently, there are twelve photographs on the website.
- 3) It is worth considering putting photos on Google Drive - such as local pleasant views, and traffic jams.
- 4) Facebook promotion has not started yet, but would be done in due course.
- 5) There was a need to increase visits to the website.

**60 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ZONE SIGNS/BEER MATS**

After discussion, it was agreed to provide a “Neighbourhood Plan Zone” sign on each of the six roadside boundary signs in Wistaston, similar to those in Bunbury but with a swan logo. Before the signage could proceed, it was necessary to obtain the Parish Council’s approval at their next meeting on 17th March; once approval had been received, Mr.McIntosh would prepare the artwork, and Mr.Clews would obtain a price.

**61 ChALC LETTER dated 4th March 2016**

Mr.Todd strongly recommended that separate representations with regard to the emerging Local Plan Strategy are made to Cheshire East by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Wistaston Parish Council, the HOW Group and individual residents. The representations should stress the importance of the Green Gap, and say that it is constantly under pressure, and also Cheshire East are not strong enough regarding landscape matters.

After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr.Moore would draft a letter, then consult Mr.Thomson, then send it to Cheshire East before 19th April 2016. (Cllr.Roberts to let Cllr.Moore have details of the recent appeals from Gladman and Harlequin.)

**62 LOCAL PLAN STRATEGY CONSULTATION - Email from A.Fisher**

Mr.Thomson advised that Cheshire East were holding a meeting to inform the public about Neighbourhood Plans at 5.30pm Monday 21st March in Sandbach Town Hall.

Mr.Thomson said that he intended to make strong representations to Cheshire East, that the Strategic Green Gap should be strengthened to Green Belt.

**63 NEXT STEPS - Future Actions**

Mr.Thomson agreed to let Mr.Moore have copies of Figure 15.1 Crewe Town Map and a Draft Housing Policy for Wistaston.

Mr.Thomson recommended holding a residents’ photo competition - the best one to be used on the cover of the Neighbourhood Plan.

It was agreed to discuss the Green Gap policy in detail, at the next meeting.

**64 NEXT MEETING**

The next meetings will be held on 20th April 2016 and 11th May 2016, at 7pm.

**The meeting closed at 8.40pm.**