

MINUTES

Steering Group Meeting Monday 24th April 2017 at 8pm, The Parish Church Room

Attending: Peter Topping, Martin Livermore, Arthur Greaves, Pam Freeman, Rob Foden, Alan Oswald, Tim Stone, Jo Denny (Administrative Assistant)

Apologies: Ken Winterbottom, Amanda Thorn

1. Vision Update

JD 4 vision options have been sent out to workgroups, will be published in May's Look and NP Website. They will also be displayed at the AGM (JD to organise display and way residence can indicate their choice. Residents can provide comments and their preference via post to the Memorial Hall, Website contact page and NP email address.

It was agreed the JD would record results manually.

Responses to date show option 1 is slightly preferred but too early to have any real indication at this stage.

2. Draft Objectives

Original objectives drafted at last SGM amended by ML to consider as well as further drafts by TS and a workgroup member.

TS Possibly one objective missing if either of the options "people feel valued and connected" is chosen.

AO felt it was an important part of the plan, connecting 2 parts of the village.

ML Not sure how important this is?

AO felt very strongly about people at Station Rd need to be connected with the rest of the village.

PT Agreed this area is rapidly growing. It was agreed to reconsider this once more responses on the draft visions were received.

Objective 1 – Environment

TS Both draft objectives pithy and cover everything. Suggests “landscapes” not “landscape” and including the word diverse. Ashley Arbon has suggested NP needs to protect arable land and plan should list fields to be protected.

Need to recognise views as detailed in Malcolm document which the group recognised was fantastically produced.

ML Need to ensure all objectives refers to either Whittlesford or Parish not village. All agreed to use the Parish.

Agreement of the following amended objective

To protect and enhance the wildlife, environment and heritage assets of Whittlesford within the diverse landscapes of the Parish.

Objective 2 Managing Change

There was discussion as to ensuring the current objective is not too open ended. TS felt the current one was.

We need to keep within remit of NP (JD).

ML suggested moving objective 2 to end with objective 6 and combine the 2. We need to ensure however first that change is managed. JD to redraft and send to SG.

Objective 3 Sustainable Businesses

This is difficult to draft as Whittlesford only really has micro businesses (ML). We have little control of this (PF) and ideas for businesses development need to come from developer not us (TS). TS did not like the words “where appropriate” as no specific enough.

AO suggested stating the 2 specific sites, agrochemical and council depot in objective.

Remainder of objective agreed with sites included as follows:

To continue to support the local economy sustaining existing businesses where appropriate, and providing opportunities for new businesses (insert the name of the specific sites, council depot and agrochemical) to become established.

Objective 4 Housing Opportunities

Objective needs to cover the right type of houses in the right places (ML).

Does energy efficiency need to be stated in the objective? AO

TS it says in the document from Amanda Thorn that specific energy efficiency plans can be included in policies in plan. Broad band however cannot be controlled. JD to check with Cambridge Ahead.

PT Do we need to include a reference to affordable housing. JD believed this was something to be included in the policies not objectives. Agreed to deal in policies. PF queries whether size of rooms could be included? This also to be dealt with in the policies.

TS concerned objective presumes there will be more housing but as PT confirmed there will be some.

To ensure that opportunities for residential development in the Parish are managed to provide the types and styles of housing that are needed, taking into account design, energy efficiency and the need to meet the requirements of residents of all ages.

Objective 5 Transport

Generally there was concern about the station, an asset and a headache (parking along Royston road), it should not dominate plan, but include how can manage it (TS, AO, PF). PF believes possible transport hub will help parking. TS felt the station could be a real benefit if grew, shops etc. like Audley End station. PF Abelio and Transport hub, consider how we include in plan.

It was agreed that TS objective should be used:

To promote the use of the station for the wider travelling public while improving the public transport and other transport links for and within the Parish.

Objective 6 Infrastructure

As discussed above agreed this should be rolled into managing change.

3. Next Steps (JD)

- Policy Writing. Facilitators and co-facilitators now need to sit down and start to write policies. Drafts by end of May.

Housing & Commercial Development ML to draft

Transport PF and AG to draft. PF to set up a meeting with SCDC for advice. PF to advise JD of date so she can attend if available.

Community Assets and Infrastructure AO agreed to draft.

Environment & Heritage already drafted by Malcolm Turner. Might need cutting down, adding to and or amending. JD to ask Amanda Thorns views on current draft.

- Evidence gathering in support of each groups policies. JD handed out document produced by AT. She advised the document may well need adding to, but certainly provides an excellent guidance to start drafting.
- Drafting introductory section on Whittlesford for NP. ML offered to draft. Approximately 1 page.

4. Website update. Any other pages/information people would like to see?

PT to draft introductory page ASAP

ML to draft short explanation for Housing & Commercial development page.

5. AOB

AO kindly agreed to be more involved with the Community Assets group and help facilitate now.

JD said WT has offered to help with drafting.

TS has kindly agreed to co-facilitate the Environment & Heritage group.