

Open Workshop 28th September 2017 7.30pm Whittlesford Memorial Hall Millennium Room

Notes of Meeting

1. Peter Topping gave an introductory presentation about the Neighbourhood Plan. His slide presentation can be found on the website, www.whittlesfordneighbourhoodplan.co.uk
2. Each group facilitator gave a presentation of their policies followed by a question and answer session. Slides of the presentation can be found on the Neighbourhood Plan website as above.

Housing and Rural Development – Martin Livermore (ML) Group Facilitator

Slide presentation of policies.

The name of the group has been changed from Housing and Commercial Development to Housing and Rural Development following Emma Powlett's suggestion during the drafting of the plan. This was agreed by Martin.

Q & A

Tim Stone (TS) – How many possible new houses might be built in Whittlesford.

ML – 200 including the possible development of the Highways Depot that we know can be developed plus a few infills.

Ken Winterbottom (KW)/Sophie O'Hara Smith (SOS) – How many are for affordable homes? Money can be clawed back for affordable housing. At the moment there are ongoing negotiations with the scrapyards developers as to how many affordable homes there should be. If their costs of development are less, for example clearing the site then there may be more money available for affordable homes. At the moment the first 8 houses are for affordable.

A discussion took place as to how the school would cope with an increase in children. There is no capacity at William Westley to increase to 2 class entry and number of catchment only children are greatly increasing.

KW – Duxford school can and will double and it is expected that children from developments in the South of the village will be in the Duxford catchment.

TS – Policy 5 says "we will ensure". How can we do this? ML agreed and said would look at wording.

Transport – Ken Winterbottom (KW) presenting for Pam Freeman the group Facilitator who was not at meeting.

Slide presentation of Policies

Q & A

TS – He is a member of the Shelford and Whittlesford Train User Group (SAWRUG). RailFuture audited the station in February but nothing really happened since then to implement the findings. The A505 junction onto Station Road East becomes ever more dangerous with added traffic, there is nowhere for buses to turn at the station is not cycle friendly. He thinks Abellio will come in with an application for a double storey metal framed car park on existing site. If that happens the planners will have to deal with the application without reference to any other possible planning applications in the pipeline such as houses on the County Council and Highways England site, access for a driverless people-carrying service from the Genome Campus and the potential for a Rural Travel Hub as proposed by the District Council. The Secretary of SAWRUG has written to District Councillor Burkitt to welcome construction of a Rural Travel Hub in Whittlesford. She has

also created a tentative outline Master Plan for the station area. A master plan would mean that any planning application would only be acceptable if it complies with Master Plan. The Academy of Urbanism, not profit company could do a Master Plan for £20,000. The greater Cambridgeshire Partnership and others could part fund, but would Parish Council contribute £5,000?

KW – Where would people park whilst car park being built?

TS – Potentially Lion Works fields.

SOS – She thinks a MasterPlan a good idea. Could also look at agriculture, there are many wider issues to look at, a lot of opportunity for a country park by rivers, connections with Sawston. There should be a tender for a Master Plan, developers may pay and she was not of the view it would cost as much as £20,000.

PT – This is more of an issue for a Parish Council meeting.

Environment & Heritage Group – Tim Stone (TS) Group Facilitator

Slide presentation of policies.

There has been a lot of input into this section from various professionals including Cambridge Wildlife Trust.

Q & A

Need to consider, Theme 3, policy 3, who is the “competent authority” to do the proper assessment of their value?

Theme 5 – Great Crested Newts are already highly protected by other legislation, but included as the Local Plan gives no specific guidance.

Emma Powlett (EP) – Theme 1 Priority Agricultural Areas. Who is going to assess this?

Ashley Arbon (AA) – He read out relevant paragraphs from the Planning Practice Guidance, document entitled Natural Environment, 21st January 2016, Part 4 Agricultural Land and Soils and Part 1 on Landscapes. The map of land use not specific for Whittlesford which their group has done.

AO – Should we include renewable solar in plan?

TS – Local Plan has already done this, we can't go any further.

EP – In 10 years or so there will be battery barns where electricity can then be stored. Thinking ahead not just solar but other energy. As a moving forward Parish should we not include something on this.

TS – No.

AA – Generally not good to build anything on land that grows food.

Resident – Should we not doing more thinking forward to what is simply in the Local Plan?

TS – Yes, but we may not contradict or duplicate anything in the Local Plan, only add to it.

PT said we need to have a discussion and gain advice from South Cambs. District Council (SCDC) on this.

ML - Theme 4, Priority Amenity Sites, Policy 4, wording “demonstrably improves the view”. This wording may need looking at. SOS – Basically, any development that affects views would be resisted. To discuss.

AA raised that the E & H section was very detailed and contained very important information that should not get overlooked in the plan. In relation to the designated heritage assets, Scheduled Monuments/Listed Buildings and non-designated heritage assets, the list of 50 sites in Whittlesford, the group has sought advice from the Planning Practice Guidance document entitled ‘Conserving and enhancing the historic environment, 10th April 2014.

PT – Said next was that SCDC should “sense check” the plan to advise whether we are on track with including the right information.

Infrastructure (Community Assets) – Alan Oswald (AO) Group Facilitator

Slide presentation of policies

Q & A

Resident – Health not covered in policies.

AO – Sawston is where medical facilities are. It is key however that there is suitable transport to get to Sawston and Gt Shelford. The capacity of the health centre in Sawston will need to be considered, but not at Whittlesford level.

PT – It is likely it will get stretched and need to expand.

Resident – Primary School Policy. He felt uncomfortable that any children coming to the village and living in new affordable housing near the South of village will have to go to Duxford School. Not sure of answer or that it is a policy, but is an issue.

PT – suggested that this point be revisited later.

AA – He was not of the view that Whittlesford Bridge area of village was sustainable as a place to live, all the facilities are other side of village. It is wrong that houses are built and then the infrastructure is looked at afterwards.

PT – Back to the school point, we want Whittlesford to be a successful community. If there is new building by the station, people should not be isolated from the centre of the village. A strength in the neighbourhood plan.