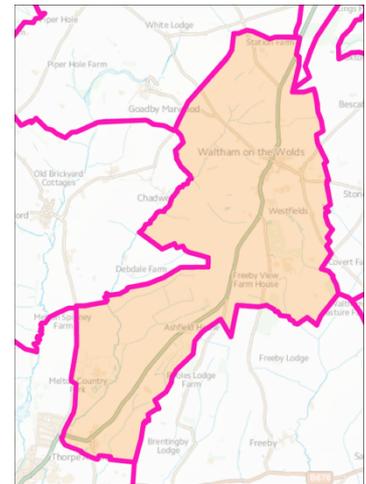


WALTHAM ON THE WOLDS AND THORPE ARNOLD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

MEETING NOTES: THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2016 WALTHAM VILLAGE HALL

Attendees

Claudine Baxter (CB)	Jayne Haynes (JHa)
David Hill (DH)	David Jefferson (DJ)
Stuart Lomas (SL)	Cllr David Lovegrove (DL)
Cllr Martin Lusty (ML) - Secretary	Ron Marks (RM)
Cllr Malcolm Mills (MM)	Rachel Quine (RQ)
Glena Rowlands (GR)	Steve Ware (SW) - Chair



Apologies

James Beverley (JB) – MBC	Judith Maidment (JM)
Alan Noble (AN)	James Houghton (JHo)

Copies to:

SG members, PC notice boards/website and James Beverley, MBC

1. Minutes of the last meeting

There were no changes or additions.

2. Group membership

Rachel Quine and Stuart Lomas were welcomed to the Group.

3. Melton Draft Local Plan.

Waltham is classified as a Primary Rural Service Centre in the Local Plan based on a score based on amenities. MM has sent a letter to MBC to challenge this classification and we await a response. A draft response to the Local Plan consultation is to be prepared and circulated for comment before submission.

Action: ML to prepare and circulate a draft response to the Draft Local Plan.

4. Potential Development Land

The Group was updated on the approval of the planning application for 26 houses off High Street and the status of the other current and expected applications. DJ reported on the draft plan to safeguard Waltham Building Stone that would affect any development off Bescaby Lane.

We discussed the relative merits of numerous land options around Waltham for housing development (as illustrated on the map appended to the minutes of 21 January). MM undertook to prepare a report on all these options with a revised map and arguments for and against (subsequently done, see email dated 29 February). A red-amber-green system of assessment was suggested.

Action: DJ to review and other members to comment if they wish. RM to find out the criteria and checks done by MBC for land included in the SHLAA and Draft Local Plan.

5. Melton Borough Council

RM met with James Beverley of MBC on 27 January and updated us on that meeting. RM's notes are attached in Appendix A.

6. Project Profile

ML has updated the Profile as new information became available. The latest version is in the 'Evidence' folder of Dropbox. It was noted that, although WOTWATA is primarily a farming area, we hadn't engaged yet with farmers.

Action: MM and ML to identify and communicate with farmers as part of the exercise to engage with businesses within the Parish.

7. Project Plan

The Project Plan was reviewed and we concluded that: a) there was about a month's slippage on the draft plan drawn up in November; b) in order to accelerate delivery of the NP, we should hold a consultation meeting in April. A sub-group was formed to design and arrange the meeting(s).

Action: SW, RQ, SL and ML to meet to start the design and organisation of first parish consultation (meeting subsequently arranged for Tuesday 8 March). Sub-group to keep others informed and involved. ML to update the overall Project Plan.

8. Finances

ML tabled a draft budget, to be updated as we progress. RM reported that MBC had confirmed they would be funding the statutory consultation, independent examiner and final referendum.

9. Parish Communication

The NP Group has distributed leaflets to all dwellings in the Parish. This communication described the purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan and asking the preferred means of contact. From a total 391 leaflets, returns were received from only 56 households (14% return rate) listing 69 people. If this is indicative of the support for the Plan, then we don't believe it will be adopted. Only 2 households made the return from Thorpe Arnold and lack of support from Thorpe Arnold is a particular worry.

Actions: All Group members to encourage friends and neighbours to sign up for email or letter communications by emailing or posting to ML (5 Fair Field LE14 4AX). As new contacts become available, ML will update the database.

Next meeting: Thursday 17 March at 19:00 at Waltham Village Hall.

Appendix A: Notes from meeting with MBC, 27 January 2016

Items for discussion:

1. Possible sites for development.
2. Finance.
3. What happens after the number of houses reaches 100 (as per Draft Local Plan).

Answers:

1. Sites highlighted by MBC have all been checked by the criteria laid down and will meet current and future requirements.
2. We have £16k left and approx. 2 years to complete NP.
3. If and when the 100 houses are met, future building will depend on Policy SS3 of the Draft Local Plan (see next page).

Other items:

- We can extend the conservation area, also the Building Area (i.e. old village envelope) and the style of design, etc.
- Asfordby took 2 years longer and increased cost by going in to too much detail in the NP.
- Further contact with Bottesford would be helpful as James says they have a good approach.

Policy SS3 – Sustainable Communities

Outside of those sites allocated through the local plan, planning permission will be granted for small scale development of up to

- 10 dwellings in Primary or Secondary Rural Service Centres,
- 5 dwellings in 'Rural Supporters' and
- 3 in 'Rural Settlements';

Where it has been demonstrated that the proposal enhances the sustainability of the settlement or settlements to which it relates. For development to enhance the sustainability of communities the Council expects proposals to meet the following criteria:

1. The development provides housing or economic development which meets a local need as identified in a Neighbourhood Plan or appropriate community-led strategy or SHMA;
2. The development is well related to an existing settlement and of a high standard of design which respects the local vernacular and is reflective of its setting and the character of the settlement and surrounding area;
3. The development respects the Borough's landscape and settlement character such that it conforms with policies EN1, EN4 & EN6;
4. The development will be served by sustainable infrastructure and or provide new infrastructure or services to the wider benefit of the settlement;
5. The development respects ecological, heritage and biodiversity features and provides mitigation to prevent any potential harm;
6. Where possible the development does not result in the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land;
7. The development does not increase the risk flooding in accordance with policy EN11;
8. In rural settlements outside of the main urban area the council will seek to protect and enhance existing services and facilities and will support sustainable development proposals which contribute towards meeting local development needs, realising the vision and strategic priorities, and improving the sustainability of our rural areas.