

Report of the  
Chair to the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Steering Committee

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019

There has been a flurry of activity to report on in the recent weeks, with ongoing considerations to look at

**1) The SEA**

- The draft SEA have been sent by Ian McCluskey of AECOM, the report is positive in that it concurred and supported the NP in both its overall conclusions and methodology used. There was no conflicting information, conclusions and it is a positive report to sit along side the NP moving forward, it will strengthen the NP in light of any challenges that might be made down the line.
- At this point Historic England have not yet responded to AECOM re the SEA, Ian McCluskey has completed the report noting their lack of impute.
- Ian McCluskey has requested we proofread and offer changes .
- A working party has been set up to look at the SEA in regards of proofreading also to look at the recommendations and or suggested changes to the NP. Working party to include RK, HD, TW, EW, DC, MC. To meet 10am 7<sup>th</sup> August at HDs to review.
- Moving forward we will need to determine how, what and when we communicate with the Parish where we are in the process and the resulting consequences.
- We have received an email from Ian McCluskey's in which he advised we need to redo reg 14 with the completed SEA to accompany the draft NP . I forwarded the email to both Fran Belcher and Gary Kirk, both were unaware that the regulations would require that it could be necessary, both responded in writing to that effect and have both looked into the legalities of the situation.
- Up to this point GK is saying the regulations are ambiguous, but feels it may well need to be done. He is away until next week when he will further research any other cases that ,might give some guidance.
- I have had a further telephone conversation with Ian McCluskey in which he reiterated the fact that not withstanding the regulations, the choice is ours, however there is a risk of the NP being challenged if we do not complete reg 14 again with the SEA accompanying the draft NP. He is also going to discuss the matter with FB and look at some similar cases in other parts of the country
- Today I received a reply and opinion from Fran Belcher on behalf of the HBBC, they are of the opinion that we should redo reg 14, or we risk opening ourselves to challenges further down the line. Again reiterating the choice is ours.
- I have asked FB to organise a meeting with the relevant HBBC and Gary Kirk following our meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August to discuss the next move.

**2) All parties meeting with Bloors, HBBC and representatives from the NP re the Affordable Housing Provision**

- HD and TG attended a meeting at the Hinckley HUB FB sent notes taken from the meeting
- The meeting was positive, however I made it clear I was not in a position to make any qualified decisions at that point and would need to consult with the NP committee before continuing, we briefly discussed the way in which Affordable housing provision was negotiated to best meet the current needs of the parish.
- Bloores and HBBC are to send briefing notes to help the committee better understand the way in which the Planning Department and developers discuss the affordable housing aspect

of the development, with the Strategic housing and Enabling officer negotiating the local housing needs using the most current evidence. Bloors were very clear that they wanted to work with the NP and were still working on the 40% affordable housing umbrella, however within that HBBC were keen to look at meeting more closely the current housing needs. The HBBC are in essence asking us to add some Flexibility to the NP to enable the Strategic Housing and Enabling Officer to work within the policies and still met the current needs of the parish.

- We are waiting for the briefing notes.
- Bloors have sent a letter 31.07.2019 for the attention of Newbold Verdon Parish Council regarding a public consultation by Bloor Homes on proposals for land south of Bosworth Lane, Newbold Verdon. I have attached the letter.

### **3) Ongoing communications with the Parish**

- We will need to update the Parish sooner rather than later re the current progress of the NP, we do need however to have clear understanding of whether we will be undertaking reg 14 or 16

Regards Heather Davison ( Chair Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee)