

Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan
Chairs Report for the Parish Council meeting
Monday, 1st October 2018

Since the last Parish Council meeting the Advisory Steering Committee has been addressing two issues.

1. The pre-submission comments and updating the Neighbourhood Plan

YourLocale have undertaken a critique of all the written comments made by respondents to the pre-submission neighbourhood plan. Members of the Strategy Group met with Gary Kirk from YourLocale and went through those pertaining to HBBC's late submission - all other comments had been responded to in a similar fashion some time ago. There was also a meeting of the newly formed Reg14 Group taking place on Thursday 27th September.

The outcome of these meetings will be a redrafting of the Neighbourhood Plan, where necessary, and this will then provide the basis for a completed plan to be handed to HBBC.

2. Achieving a Strategic Environmental Assessment

The newly formed SEA Group met on the 20th September to look at what the implications might be of addressing a SEA. The following questions were asked:

Is this something we are able to undertake alone or with technical support?

- If we need support, what will be the form?
- What funding streams are there?
- What is our plan of action? Timeframe. Who does what, key Mile Stones
- Involvement of HBBC

The following was concluded:

.....it was agreed by all present that it is not feasible for the Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan Group to prepare a Strategic Environment Assessment; the group has neither the resources, nor the technical skills to do so; and that the report is to be prepared by an external agency.

As a consequence of this resolution the group identified certain actions that would need to be undertaken.

1. Ashby Neighbourhood Plan contact is to be contacted. Action: Heather Davidson
2. A Note of interest is to be submitted to Locality online. Action: Heather Davidson/Roger King
3. An enquiry is to be made to the Big Lottery for possible funding. Action: Roger King
4. Rachel Dexter of HBBC is to be invited to the next meeting. Timing of this is dependent on the outcome of the discussion with Ashby: Action: Heather Davidson

Ashby council are to be contacted because they are one of only two neighbourhood planning groups in Leicestershire to have completed a SEA.

Where to from here?

Provisional Timetable for working toward achieving

We are working toward the submission to HBBC of the final document. I have spoken with YourLocale and the following actions and timeframe are currently anticipated.

Action	By When and Why
Complete the re-drafting of the Neighbourhood Plan, in response to Reg 14 comments	This could be ready by the end of October/early November
Completion of the SEA	This is likely to take until the new year, possibly March. An application for technical support can take up to 10 weeks. The length of time the SEA takes to complete is dependent on the scope of the assessment; a limited assessment - just the Historic Environment limited to one development site- will take the shortest time.
Final redrafting of the plan in the light of the SEA, if necessary	This may take very little time, it may take longer. It all depends on the findings of the SEA and the implications for the plan. We can shorten this process by updating parts of the NP as the SEA emerges.
Submission to HBBC	This may well be April 2019, after the NP has been fully updated following the SEA
HBBC undertake final consultation	Another 8 week period. Before HBBC send the NP out for consultation they complete a validation check that the right documents have been included and arrange for printing the Plan and promotion of where the plan can be read.
Examiner Appointed and undertakes his/her work	How long an examiner takes is very hard to determine, it is usually an average of two months.
HBBC proceed to referendum	HBBC to arrange a referendum within the statutory requirement of 56 working days from receiving the examiner's approval. Best outcome before end of autumn.

Financial Cost

Having to complete the SEA will require some additional financial costs. Approval from the national body, Locality, means we will receive technical support sufficient to achieve the goal. However, there is likely to be a series of interactions with the technical support agency which will require informed responses that will require additional support from YourLocale. Gary Kirk (YourLocale) believes this is likely to require a further two days of consultancy support though it may run into three depending on what is proposed by the SEA. The cost will therefore be between £1,000 and £1,500.

It may be possible to apply to the Big Lottery fund for this extra money. Usually they will award NP's up to £10,000 and so far, we have only received a grant of £3,700, leaving potentially up to £6,300 for us to request. This is being looked into by the SEA group.