

# BECCLES AND PARISHES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN OPERATIONAL GROUP MEETING

## **Notes from Meeting**

Monday 26 September 2016

10am

Beccles Town Hall

## **Present:**

Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw (Chair), Beccles Town Council

Graham Elliott, Beccles Town Council

Richard Stubbings, Beccles Town Council

Neville Smith, Barsham & Shipmeadow Parish Council

John Bumpus, Barsham & Shipmeadow Parish Council

Chris Scott, Ringsfield & Weston Parish Council

## **Apologies:**

Simon Thompson, Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham & Ellough Joint Parish Council

## **Designated Area**

Elfrede has attended several meetings and met many people to discuss the formation of Neighbourhood Plans. The stark advice she has received is that:-

1. The area we have designated is too large and too diverse . Neighbourhood plans are for “neighbourhoods” and Beccles on its own would be a large area with a diverse set of problems. The large area was approved by WDC but this simply means it is legal. WDC do not, and cannot, be involved in the formulation of Neighbourhood Plans.
2. If we continue with the large area we would need to consult separately and bring together the results into one document. It is likely that the few issues that come forward in a rural parish will be “lost” amongst a wide ranging plan for a large diverse area.
3. We will need non-Councillors on the operational group. The Plan would simply be failed by an examiner if we do not do this ASAP.

Some councillors from the parishes have expressed frustration at the lack of progress and despite the fact that progress is now happening they are re-thinking whether they “go it alone”. If this happens it will trigger a full boundary review and new boundaries will need to be submitted in order to negate the current designated area. Elfrede stated that this was NOT a reason for inaction. Whether we keep the area or define new areas we need to do exactly the same thing next. An examiner will not view a boundary change as a negative event as it could show we are being responsive to our communities.

**Action:** All to consider whether we continue with the current boundary and report back at the next meeting. New boundaries may be forced upon us if any of the parishes pulled out.

## **Phase I**

Regardless of the boundary issue already discussed we need to:-

1. Assemble facts about our communities into a document and share this widely. This should include details such as those in the Parish Profile document produced by WDC for each parish<sup>i</sup>. It should also include all known potential future

i <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning/waveney-town-and-village-profiles/>

development. This document must be entirely factual and must not include opinions. **Action:** Graham agreed to do this for Beccles

2. Engage with the public via the press, exhibitions, social media etc.
3. Define the scope of the plan

Elfrede tabled a copy of a draft letter to start the public engagement. Contact details needed to be added. Suggested that this should be Claire at BTC.

Letter should be sent to ALL community groups, the local paper and shared on Facebook, Twitter, Streetlife etc. Ringsfield will circulate it via their Parish Magazine.

It was agreed that lack of administrative support for Phase I is not a problem. Let's get on with it now!

### **Exhibition**

Beccles Library is keen to host an exhibition for a month. They need dates.

Elfrede has an offer from a designer (Nik Rose) to make some boards for the display. They must not be "leading" - simply an opportunity to get the public to say what they want in their neighbourhood.

Elfrede will sort out additional quotes if required and get the boards printed. It was agreed that two sets of these boards would be useful.

After the library the exhibition should go "on tour" to public places around the town and surrounding participating villages.

The production of these boards is a top priority!

### **Website & social media**

We need a dedicated website with a proper URL.

Agreed this should be [www.becclesplan.com](http://www.becclesplan.com)

Claire (BTC) to be asked to register this so that it is owned and controlled by BTC.

Richard agreed to host the site for free.

Need to set up a Blog as this will document the "journey" and be vital when writing the plan document itself.

Also need Facebook page and Twitter account to spread the word far and wide.

Photo taken of the operational group members for first post.

Photos needed. Claire (BTC) has some. Graham to ask Andrew Florides and Christine Pinsent if they have photos we can use.

Meeting close at 11:30am