

BECCLES AND PARISHES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN OPERATIONAL GROUP MEETING

Notes from Meeting

Monday 31 October 2016

10am at Beccles Town Hall

Present:

Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw (Chair), Beccles Town Council

Graham Elliott, Beccles Town Council

Richard Stubbings, Beccles Town Council

Andrea Downes, Beccles Town Council

Hugh Taylor (part only)

Liam Martin, Kessingland Parish Council (part only)

Item 1

Apologies were received from:

Chris Scott, Ringsfield & Weston Parish Council

Phillip Johnson, Ringsfield & Weston Parish Council

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

Item 2

Minutes from the Operational Group meeting on 26 September 2016 were approved

Item 3

Presentation from Liam Martin on Kessingland Neighbourhood Plan

There is no template for a Neighbourhood Plan although there are some guidelines

Must get community consent it is not Parish Council led plan

Must have more community members than Parish Council members

Kessingland has 5 Councillors and 7 community members

Started in March 2012 by building up a team

Must link in with WDC (and also Broads Authority in the case of Beccles)

Research and fact finding.....

Use census records of 2001 & 2011 and note the changes between the two censuses

Must be compliant with WDC Local Plan and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

A Neighbourhood Plan cannot block development. It should complement WDC policies

Consultation with the community via

Meetings

Village fête

Drop-in consultations

Topics emerged from this consultation

Still no pen to paper at this stage!

Terms of reference for the Neighbourhood Plan were agreed in July 2013 and the Neighbourhood area agreed by WDC

Trial questionnaires sent out could be done at the very start of the process

A consultant was taken on in October 2013. This is highly recommended.

Kessingland have spent around £10k so far on the consultant

In mid 2014 a questionnaire was sent out to the entire village

Four sections

1. householder
2. individuals in the house 18+
3. business
4. youth 11-18

Response was good

Issues arising

Major issue was the need for affordable housing

They talked to landowners and identified three sites

One of these sites was for affordable housing for local people in perpetuity

A housing needs assessment was required to support a "rural exception site"

Survey showed 100 people in need of affordable housing

Gateway to Homechoice have numbers of people in need of housing but many people are not on the housing list.

Consultant started drafting report.

Feedback on every draft of consultant's report made the report bigger each time

There were 6 drafts + pre submission document

Sustainability Appraisal needed. WDC can advise on this.

Pre submission document produced for consultation which was extended to allow more people to have their say.

Draft Neighbourhood Plan submitted to WDC

14 documents in all with 400 pages

WDC agreed and then forwarded to Planning Inspector

Inspector's report recommended a few changes and these changes were incorporated in the Referendum version of the Neighbourhood Plan

A referendum will be held on 24 November 2016

So far around 200 Neighbourhood Plans have been approved by referenda.

Woodbridge have recently pulled out of making a Neighbourhood Plan

http://www.ipswichstar.co.uk/news/town_council_severs_ties_with_neighbourhood_plan_devlopment_1_4696781

Advantages of the Neighbourhood Plan were clearly demonstrated at the most recent Planning Committee meeting of WDC. Two Kessingland applications were approved mainly as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan which now carries significant weight.

Help available from Community Action Suffolk and Jo McCullum of WDC

Clerk supported meetings of the Neighbourhood Plan Group but it was the group members that did all the work.

The group thanked Liam Martin for his presentation

Item 4 & 5

Barsham & Shipmeadow pulled out of the Neighbourhood Plan group and it is understood that Sotterley, Shaddingfield, Sotterley and Willingham will also pull out. Ringsfield & Weston are not sure. Elfrede to talk at next R&WPC meeting

We will need to submit a new area for designation and there was unanimous support for making this Beccles only. There is very strong advice that Beccles, on its own, is a large Neighbourhood and that the addition of villages would not be in the villages' interests let alone the town's interests. We don't need to re-designate area now.

The Terms of Reference will need to be revised. Richard will circulate a revised document

Item 6

Graham produced extensive data that is available for Beccles but most of this is available in summary form and not useful as it stands. Graham has also accessed the source of this data (mainly census data) and has now got the ability to present it in any way as required by the Neighbourhood Plan. Some demonstration graphs were produced from this raw data. There is so much data available that Graham asked for guidance as to how much and which data was wanted.

Agreed that Graham would initially mirror the graphs produced in the Kessingland Neighbourhood Plan.

Graham will also send links to raw data and to the Kessingland NP documents (see below)

Census data for Beccles

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadDomainList.do?a=7&b=11120524&c=beccles&d=16&g=6467316&i=1001x1003&m=0&r=1&s=1477993684081&enc=1&domainId=58&census=true>

Summary data from WDC

<http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Neighbourhood-Planning/Town-and-village-profiles/Beccles-Town-Profile.pdf>

Kessingland Neighbourhood Plan – Referendum Version

<http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Neighbourhood-Planning/Designated-Neighbourhood-Areas/Kessingland/Referendum/Kessingland-Neighbourhood-Plan-2016-2030-Referendum-Version.pdf>

Other Kessingland Neighbourhood Plan documents

<http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-areas/kessingland-neighbourhood-area/>

Item 7

Boards not ready yet but will be ready soon.

Consultation in the library in a couple of weeks

This will decide the “scope” of the plan and the themes for future work.

The four BTC designed themed groups were deemed not appropriate and should not be taken forward. The consultation must not be “driven” by the Town Council.

The consultation display boards will then visit many places around the town

Boards will cost around £60 Operation Group approved spending up to £100

Need to do a recruitment drive to get more people on the group and this should be part of the initial consultation.

Next meeting Monday 28 November at 10am in Beccles Library with the consultation exhibition.

Meeting close at 11:40am