

BECCLES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

OPERATIONAL GROUP MEETING

Notes from Meeting

Monday 25 September 2017
10am
Beccles Library

Present:

Operational Group Members

Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw, Chair Operational Group
David Goldstone, Vice Chair Operational Group
Richard Stubbings
Graham Elliott
Heather Sexton
Carol Coote

Others

John Sayer
Claire Mackney
Richard Belfontaine

Apologies

Andrea Downes
Josie Horne
Len Coote

Notes from meeting held on 31 July 2017

These were agreed

Grant Application

We can apply for a grant for various things to do with the Neighbourhood Plan
The grant is a maximum of £9,000 over a 3 year period. It may need to be spent by end of March 2018 but there may be an extension of this time period.
There are two types of applications. We will need to do the more technical one. Applications need to be submitted online. Will need help from Town Clerk plus some Councillors. A small group is needed to coordinate the application. RS, DG and Town Clerk to take forward.

Feedback from planning meetings and stalls

More interesting than surgeries. Evenly split between opposition to new development and acceptance. Most agree that land between BSRR and town is best site for future housing development. Many expressed concern about the pace of development. Considerable concern about health facilities in the town. Small houses most needed.

RB asked for (and received) confirmation that the Local Plan is talking about allocating "housing units" rather than houses.

Next steps online questionnaire and survey

General questions maybe too hard to analyse results
Too specific may be too leading and too long
HS suggested questionnaire that is filled by operator NOT by respondent (ie face to face).
HS also suggested that a selection of venues should be used for these "interviews".
Use Amberley NP questions as a base for ours. But we need evidence based questions so

will need to adapt according to the responses received from Phase I of the NP
We will also need an online questionnaire and these will need to be promoted online
We will also need to go into residential homes
It was agreed that the draft questionnaire should be drawn up by the next meeting with email circulation beforehand.

Engagement of consultant

It was agreed that it is right the time get a consultant involved.

Who can we use?

GE agreed to contact Liam Martin from Kessingland too ask who they used.

Clare to research for other consultants

Need to have our draft questions ready before engaging consultant

Local Plan Update

The consultation for the draft WDC Local Plan is now closed.

Town Council and other bodies have submitted constructive responses.

The timetable for the Local Plan process is tight. A final draft will be produced in early 2018 and this will need to be subject to examination by an Independent Inspector and subsequent adoption by WDC Full Council. The aim is to have the Plan adopted in mid 2018 to minimize the risk that the Local Plan is deemed "Out of Date".

The Broads Authority also doing their own Local Plan and this covers a small part of the Beccles NP area.

AOB

DG expressed concern about the health centre and how the CCG is responding to the Local Plan process. GE reported that the Chief Officer of the CCG gave a presentation to WDC Council in September and will arrange a special meeting with Beccles Councillors to discuss specific problems at Beccles Health Centre.

The provision of secondary education was raised in relation to the Local Plan. GE stated that there was currently a surplus of secondary spaces in Beccles and that the SJLHS was full because it was deemed as being successful and attracted pupils from outside its catchment area.

It was reported that cars park at Beccles Health Centre when using the town centre.

EB-C reported that SCC are offering guidance on NPs. SCC have produced a document entitled "Neighbourhood Planning in Suffolk". It was stated that SCC will listen to NP policies.

EB-C raised the possibility of a social meeting with Bungay NP group.

JS asked about the town roads **after** the Southern Relief Road. He stated that the A145 should be re-routed away from the town to maximize the benefit of the relief road. He also wanted strict weight limits on all roads in the town. EB-C has raised these issues already at SCC and would welcome further representations from JS to help her argue for these measures.

Date of next NPOG meeting

30 October 2017

27 November 2017