

Eardisland Parish Council

Meeting of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group
Notes from the meeting held on Thursday 21 August 2014 at Eardisland Village Hall.

Notes of meeting

In Attendance: Richard Kirby(Chair), Caroline Marsden, Graham Madely, Ruth Brinton-Bivand, John Edwards, Hugh Vernon, Brian Pollard, Elaine Smith, Barry Freeman, Maryan Hanson, George Alderson, Jo South.

Apologies: Graham Simpson, Alison Sutton (Parish Clerk)

Richard opened the meeting by emphasising the need to pull together the work which had been done so far with reference both to time pressure and the exposure of the parish to potential planning problems until the NDP was completed.

Maryan reiterated the definition and purpose of a Neighbourhood Plan, quoting from Herefordshire Council's NP guidance notes. She thanked Hugh and Barry for their work undertaken since the last meeting.

Hugh gave a brief breakdown of his schematic previously submitted to the group. He expressed the wish that the group should further finalise the Draft Plan before submitting it to Kirkwells.

In response to John's query over the consultation process Richard responded that although it was not feasible to approach the wider parish until there was a solid document to consult on, this did not negate the need for a continuous informal consultation process.

Barry was invited to present his submission to the group. He reiterated his feeling that there was a need for streamlining the information assembled to date and outlined the reasoning behind his latest documents.

Ruth was of the opinion that any confusion felt among the group was more over the format than the content which is basically replicated in all versions and that some of that confusion might lie in the perceived discrepancy between the original HC issued schematic and RK's single line format as to how the document should be broken down. She was of the opinion that the existing material should now be passed on to the Consultants to be edited into the appropriate format.

Maryan raised the question of the settlement boundary which she felt was too limiting as it currently stands because of other existing restrictions on development within the village. She suggested that the settlement boundary should be retained but with an additional development boundary line, subject to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and that building should be considered adjacent to the settlement boundary.

George gave as his personal viewpoint that there was now a need to crystallise and take forward the document. He offered to provide material for the background/introduction of the Plan either as new material or taken from the historical background document already

on the Parish website. He also emphasised that the nature and position of any development should be an essential part of any neighbourhood plan.

Barry queried Maryan's proposal to identify areas within the flood plain where building could take place to which she replied that as permission had recently been given for such development it was therefore potentially possible.

The group was asked by Richard whether they were agreed to send the work so far, and specifically the three documents prepared by Hugh, Barry and Ruth/Caroline, to Kirkwells, to which the majority answer was yes. It was also agreed to send a contribution from Graham regarding the flooding and drainage situation and its potential impact on the community.

Ruth agreed to prepare an index of documents to be submitted to Kirkwells.

She also requested that the following should be on the agenda for the next meeting:

- Parish Events suitable for the consultation process
- A parish-wide warden system for consulting with residents particularly outside the village
- Events designed for awareness-raising and consultation.

It was also agreed to formulate a letter to go out to all local businesses and landowners to make them aware of the process being carried out.

Maryan added that it would be good practice to liaise with neighbouring parishes in order to be aware of the implications of development particularly in Agri-business where they might affect this parish, as the County Council Planning Office no longer has an obligation to inform neighbouring councils.

It was noted that the next copy date for the Parish magazine will be 12 September.

It was announced by Richard that Graham Simpson intended to resign from the group but would continue to provide information where appropriate.

Open Forum: No members of the public were present.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 4 September 7.30pm in the Bowling Club.