

MINUTES OF WERRINGTON AREA FORUM MEETING MONDAY 12th December 2022

FORUM MEMBERS

Pauline Fury, Ivan Hammond, Vince Moon, Roger Proudfoot, Geoff Smith, Sally Weald

WARD COUNCILLORS:

Cllr Sandra Bond

OTHER ATTENDEES

Charles Coxon (Neighbourhood Council), One resident

APOLOGIES:

Cllr John Fox, Cllr Judy Fox, Tony Forster, Martin Greaves, Cllr Andrew Bond, Cllr Bryan Tyler, Cllr Steve Lane,

Welcome and apologies: Vince Moon thanked everyone for coming out on such a cold evening

Neighbourhood Plan Overview:

Sally Weald as Secretary gave an overview of the Area Forum and Neighbourhood Plan. She highlighted the Plans now in place on the surrounding villages.

She reminded that there is enough money for 6 days consultant's work. Progress has to be demonstrated this year for us to receive money in the future although it is not yet known the government will continue funding after 1st April.

Both Emma Naylor and Philip Hylton have left the City Council and she has been trying to make contact with City Council for last 6 weeks. She has been told by Gemma Wildman that there is no one currently supporting Neighbourhood Plans with the suggestion that support will have to be sought externally. It is known that Emma and Philip gave a lot of support to the writing of previous Plans and the fact that they knew that the Werrington Plan was so advanced, the timing and lack of commitment to assist is very annoying. The Council has to give support to at least the Strategic Environmental Assessment. Help is also needed with some quite specific questions about Open Space Assessment.

It was queried exactly who was needed for the Assessment. Sally said that she understood that this was produced by PCC planning but she wasn't really that clear. It was all done on a standardised format and she presumed that it would be really straightforward as there were no difficult policies impacting on any of the aspects covered.

Sally said that she would have to involve John Fox going forward to progress this.

Vince highlighted that the information from the recent Parish Liaison Committee is very relevant here as a planning presentation was given. It is clear that there will be a lot of different ways of working going forward with costs at the centre. Parish Councils will be affected. Locally the Planning Department was being restructured and this should be completed by January 2023. The Local Plan is also being reviewed going forward as it was felt that the industrial strategy in particular was in need of updating. So a new Local Plan will be produced. There will also be new government legislation on planning, although it is not known when this will happen Neighbourhood Plans will remain but they may have to be updated. Vince suggested that it was clear that our City Council engagement is in the midst of this. Some Parish Councils expressed concerns about their dealings with the Planning Department on planning matters in the future.

Sally said that the only way forward is for the consultant to review everything produced so it is critical that all the work done is submitted with the hope that much of it is along the right lines not requiring rewriting.

The following documents have been written and available online

- Neighbourhood Plan: will be finalised in the next few days online
- Basic Conditions Statement
- Community Statement (which includes the result of the questionnaire)
- Locally Important Views
- Open Space Assessment
- Equality Impact Assessment
- Character Assessment (which includes the statistical review)

Sally went through the revised policies:

- Design and housing priorities. The wording will be reviewed with the consultant to see what support can be given to Peterborough housing priorities without jeopardising the other aspects of the Plan
- Car Parking
- Cycle Parking & Storage
- Important View
- The Natural Environment
- Local Green Spaces
- Werrington Allotment Gardens and Brookside former playing fields
- Recreational facilities
- Footpaths and Cycleways
- Employment

It should be noted that the content of the Maintaining Separation Policy has been put into the Open Space Policy and a new employment policy has been added.

Sally broke down the amount of work done on each document with 270 pages had been prepared and sections had rewritten several times.

With a Brookside resident in attendance, Sally explained the Brookside playing fields aspect and the clause being added to the Policy to try to help. She added that there are other aspects within the Plan that will also help such as car parking, open space, maintaining character etc

Links to the documents had been sent to the 300 people on the mailing list on Werrington Noticeboard Facebook and a specific letter to 54 residents surrounding Brookside. Some feedback had been obtained.

Questions asked:

- Will the current Designated Open Spaces still be maintained.
Yes, the Designated Open Spaces are additional to those already identified
- Concern over infill of large gardens. Will that be addressed
Yes, this is a continual expressed concern, plan has photos highlighting the green spaces and describes the wildlife corridors, may need to look at ways to strength this.
- Roger would like to review the Environmental Section
- Has The Brook and its potential nature reserve status been detailed. Sally said the Management Plan had been referred to and she will check that this aspect had been mentioned. She said that there already was a Cambridgeshire Wildlife Site along the railway margins although a lot of this would have been removed with the dive under tunnel work ... Roger confirmed that this was also the site of a rare moth so has been reinstated.

Next steps

- Review a couple of the statistical profiles
- Review the Basic Conditions and the renumbering of the policies
- Add the extra evidence we have to the Neighbourhood Plan documents and draw together the introduction
- Contact Natalie the consultant to start the review work
- Contact Peterborough City Council to remind that progress is still awaited getting John Fox involved.

Sally said that the next Neighbourhood Council meeting was February but there may well be progress that will need reporting on before then.