

Note of the Eye Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

3rd January 2018

Present:

Peter Gould, Richard Berry, Michael Burke, Colin Ribchester, Andrew Evitt, Simon Hooton – Eye NPSG

Ian Tippen, Anne Bennett, Jonathan Stephenson – MSDC

Ben Castell, Simona Palmieri – AECOM consultants

Andy Robinson – ETC Project Co-ordinator

Apologies – Sue Hooton.

1. Paddock House – Peter set the scene regarding past history and the urgent need for engagement. Anne outlined the current position – the site would be used for affordable housing as long as Government grant can be obtained. The mix of dwellings will be informed by housing need information for Eye which shows 35 needs – 13 for one bedroom, 10 for 2 bedroom and 12 for 3 bedroom homes. An indicative design had been drawn up and would be the basis for the public engagement to be held in February. This shows 17 dwellings with a mix to reflect the identified housing needs.
A timetable will also be available – expected start 2019 with a year build period.
Anne acknowledged that various proposals will come through the engagement process including the need for a footpath outlined by Simon and the District Council would consider and respond to those on the day or afterwards. Anne will suggest a date to Michael for the drop in event.
2. Neighbourhood Plan – Andy and Ben outlined the role of AECOM in providing technical support. The process of preparing a ‘key diagram’ would provide the opportunity to prepare a vision for the physical future of Eye with which to influence the draft Local Plan expected in late spring. Further technical assistance for housing needs assessment and site assessment has been applied for. A discussion took place about the problems, opportunities and solutions and about the possible shape of Eye in the future. The notes from these discussions are attached to this note. It was noted that this was the start of the process of preparing a ‘key diagram’ over the next few months and the community would be fully involved in the discussion.
3. Memorandum of Understanding – agreed in principle subject to a detailed issue to be raised by Richard by email.
4. AOB – Simon asked whether solar energy on the Victoria Mill site was an option. Peter said no decisions had been taken by the Town Council and the costs and benefits of a range of options would need to be considered.