

Eye Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

6th December 2017

Present:

Peter Gould (Chair), Andrew Evitt, Sue Hooton, Michael Burke, Guy McGregor

In support: Andy Robinson Project Co-ordinator

Apologies:

Simon Hooton

Local Plan

1. ETC response was submitted before the deadline.
2. There may be some slippage in the programme which currently envisages a draft Plan in Spring 2018.
3. The relationship between the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan needs to be better understood.
4. The Neighbourhood Plan inception meeting with MSDC on the 20th December 2017 11.30 to 13.30 – to which all members of the steering group have been invited – provides an opportunity to do this.

Neighbourhood Plan

5. A revised timetable – attached to this note – was discussed. It was noted that the imperative is to influence the draft Local Plan. It was also noted that discussions on funding with Locality had led to a proposal being made for 'Technical Support' – provided by a consultancy AECOM - over and above the grant of at least £9,000. This technical support is available for master-planning and visioning which ETC has said in its response to the Local Plan Consultation Document is lacking for Eye.
6. In this context it was agreed that a delay in preparing the draft Neighbourhood Plan in favour of work with AECOM to prepare a vision document – which they refer to as a key diagram – would be worthwhile as this document would be prepared in time to influence the draft Local Plan in the Spring 2018.
7. It was also agreed that AECOMs professional input of 10 days staff time should not be used on activities such as engagement with local people as this could be done using the £9,000 available from Locality. Communication and engagement should be an ongoing activity throughout the process and should be an input to the visioning process not just a reaction to draft documents. This activity should incorporate Paddock House, the proposed new Library and Community Assets.
8. MB reported that the Heads of both schools had agreed in principle to involve their school children – AR to discuss details with them.
9. It was noted that it would be useful to see the Debenham NP (MB is seeking a copy) and to check on progress with the Diss area NP (AR to follow up).

10. It was also noted that AECOM would probably attend the next Steering Group meeting on the 3rd January to kick off their work.
11. It was agreed that Locality should be asked to fund a local housing needs study to be undertaken by AECOM. MB noted that Julie Abbey Taylor at MSDC has information on current provision of affordable housing – AR to make contact.

Victoria Mill

12. It was noted that the final report from AB Archaeology confirms that heritage restrictions on development are confined to the western edge of the site.
13. It was noted that no decisions had been made by ETC about the use of the site but it had agreed to investigate potential uses. In that context the draft application form for consent to dispose of statutory allotments was circulated. It is not clear whether the site does constitute statutory allotments but it is considered sensible to ensure this is not a restriction. It was noted that the site seems to meet both the statutory and policy criteria for allowing disposal but the views of the National Allotment Society (which have to be consulted before the application is submitted) are awaited. Approval of the application would not require ETC to dispose of the site but would allow it to do so if it decides on this option.
14. It was agreed that the potential role of Community Land Trusts should be considered.

Andy Robinson

7/12/17