

Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan Meeting

Held on Monday 23rd October 2017 at 7pm in the Meeting Room at Diss Youth & Community Centre.

Present: Corinne & Graham Moore (Scole), Paul Curson (Roydon), Mike Bootman (Palgrave), Val Pudney (Palgrave), Alison Wakeham (Burston and Shimpling), Deborah Sarson (Diss Town Clerk), Roger Greenacre (Stuston) and David Traube (Diss)

1. Apologies for absence were received from Simon Olander (Diss)
2. Minutes –the minutes of the meeting held on 17th August 2017 were agreed
3. Consultations –
 - a) *White Paper: Planning for the right homes in the right places* – a letter sent to South Norfolk Council’s Head of Planning requesting a meeting to discuss issues resulting from proposals in the white paper was noted and that a response is awaited. Proposed responses to the consultation document as drafted by MB were considered at the meeting with MB thanked for his work in preparing the document. Specifically, the ‘one-size fits all’ standardised approach to housing needs assessment was deemed not to be practical; proposals for a statement of common ground could effectively take crucial decisions away from NPs and compromise and delay an NP such as ours that is already working strategically across a border; when addressing site viability there is an opportunity to take a more progressive approach to planning by first identifying the appropriate sites and then facilitating investment in the accompanying infrastructure within the context of a Local Plan or NP. It was **agreed** that MB & DS would respond accordingly to the white paper using an appropriate method. It was further **agreed** to seek support through Richard Bacon MP as it is of interest to him. **(Action: DS/MB)**
 - b) Babergh Mid Suffolk Draft Joint Local Plan –key points for a response (to be circulated after the meeting) were discussed. Specifically relevant to the NP was exclusion by the planning officers of the A140 and A143 (and A134 in Babergh) from the ‘A’ roads forming the key transport links given the strategic nature of these roads; in their view only the A14 and A12 trunk roads are to be considered relevant. Proposals for the spatial distribution comprise 4 options: to expand around Ipswich, expand along the ‘A’ trunk roads (i.e. A14 and A12), market town/rural expansion (where most of the unplanned growth has already taken place) or create a new settlement. It was **agreed** the ‘A’ road options for future growth is the most favoured but on the wider definition to include the A140 and A143. No provision has been made for protecting the River Waveney although there is an enhanced general option to protect biodiversity; as this is coming forward as a priority for the D&DNP, it was considered relevant to seek protection through the JLP as well as the D&DNP. There are also options for better and more sustainable building standards, uses of renewable energy, quality of design and options for enhanced protection of landscape and heritage, all of which are also considered important. Diss as an

economic centre is shown through the retail survey to suppress shopping growth in Eye, which results in substantial traffic to Diss for the weekly shop. The Diss cluster, determined through consultation as to where local parishes 'look to' for services and needs, fails to take account of the much wider influence Diss has on the northern half of Mid Suffolk (and the districts to the east and west) including travel to work and for the main line railway station. It was **agreed** that the governance group would finalise and submit a response on behalf of the Steering Group. **(Action: MB/DS)**

4. Consultant's report – it was noted that an early draft 'plan for the Plan' has been received, reviewed and requires further work. It was agreed that it was important to maintain momentum and DS agreed to chase if no response by the end of the week **(Action: DS)** Whilst this is underway, activities that can be pursued in the near term were identified including protecting the River Waveney (Scole lead) **(Action: GM/CM)**, business engagement (Diss lead) **(Action: DS)**, schools – starting with the primary schools (lead to be identified), traffic study (Palgrave lead with support from Burston & Shimpling) **(Action: MB/AW)**, older community (lead to be identified), improvements to Diss town centre (Diss lead; incorporate into existing T&FG formed by the DTC's Heritage & Facilities) **(Action: DT)**; health provision (lead to be identified).
5. Market Town Strategy – an update following NCC's EDT Committee meeting was received and further options considered. It was noted that there are still options for NCC to potentially assist with part funding the traffic study and they had offered to 'ask our traffic survey team for a quote for an Automatic Number Plate Recognition survey on roads around the town' but there was concern that we needed to retain control of the specification for the traffic study to ensure it met our requirements. MB stated that he could put together an outline specification to be used to seek prices from both NCC and the open market **(Action: MB)** (as above at item 4)
6. Neighbourhood Plan Funding – a recent announcement of £22.8 million follow-on funding for NPs extending the scheme to March 2022 was noted (open for applications from February 2018). This takes the pressure off having to make a decision urgently about what funding is required and spending it within the deadline of 31st March 2018.
7. Future meetings – after discussion and noting regular commitments it was **agreed** that future meetings of the steering group would be held on the third Monday in the month.

Meeting ended 9.05pm