

**Minutes of the Meeting of Ashton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group held on
Monday 20th February at 7.30pm at Ashton Primary School**

Present J. Roychoudhury, C. Johnson, G. Otto, L. Godfrey

Speaker Michael Wellock (representing Kirkwells)

2 members of the public (P. Joyce + 1 other).

22. Public Session No issues were raised.

23. Approval of Apologies for absence S. Lemon (funeral).

24. Approval of the Minutes of previous Meeting

The Group resolved to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of 16th November 2016.

25. Matters arising from the Minutes nil.

26. Update and Presentation by Michael Wellock. (MW).

MW introduced himself and Kirkwells, explaining their background in Neighbourhood Planning. He said Neighbourhood Plans are now coming under increased scrutiny; hence documentation needs to be robust eg keeping accurate minutes. The need for good record-keeping is especially important when discussing allocation of sites for development.

The questionnaire carried out in 2015 was discussed: MW is of the opinion that many of its findings could be of some use eg to identify key issues in Ashton. The questionnaire by itself is insufficient evidence but it can be used to help draw up a Draft Plan.

The Local Plan Part 2A was discussed eg changes to village confines. MW has dealt with South Northants several times; he spoke of the possibility of proceeding to our Preferred Option Plan and then meeting with South Northants. This way we can gather SN's view on the Plan, it's validity and what adjustments they suggest. MW said it will be best to ensure the Ashton Plan does not conflict with Local Plan Part2A.

Ashton needs to decide what we want to achieve and to have an aim for the Plan eg to decide a planning framework; or to deal with a specific housing issue. The Plan needs to be for the neighbourhood area, not just the village.

MW suggested we need to make sure everyone is made aware of meetings and has an opportunity to respond. We should look at ways of going to people rather than them having to come to us. He gave the example of West Haddon where each member of their team was allocated approx. 50 homes and then 'knocked on doors'. Alternatives would include :-

-using newsletter distributors to make contact ie someone known to the householder.

-we could attend existing groups –church groups, coffee mornings etc

-we could make contact in The Old Crown - young males are particularly reluctant to attend meetings.

Key Issues for Ashton may well involve housing growth in Ashton – this should be addressed through the Plan – MW said we may discuss options for this at our next meeting with him. We may also want to address other issues raised in the questionnaire eg traffic (speeding, volume etc).

The Steering Group need to decide what we want to achieve and what our overall aim is for the Plan.

MW suggested that we could use the material from the questionnaire to devise proposals, before asking residents what they think of those proposals. Also we should examine the Planning Policy assessment and evidence-based review for Ashton (site of the moat, ridge-and-furrow).

MW's suggestions for when we next meet :-

- a discussion draft setting out key issues and possible ways of dealing with them eg to manage housing growth, we may want to manage the village confines,
- a consultation on a range of options linked to the questionnaire.

27. Locality Grant.

This has been less-than-straightforward. Grant funding has been awarded, but only up to March 31st 2017. Funding from April 1st 2017 has yet to be secured.

28. Co-option of Paul Joyce onto Ashton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Paul Joyce's co-option was discussed. The relevant Terms of Reference (1 b) were read out and were deemed not to pose an obstacle. Paul Joyce's co-option was proposed, seconded and received a majority vote in favour.

29. Items for next meeting.

To be decided

30. Date and Time of next Meeting(s)

Thursday 16th March 2017 at 7.30pm (no MW)

Possible next meeting with MW present – early April.

The meeting closed at 9.16pm