

**Minutes of the Meeting of Ashton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group held on**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.30pm at Ashton Primary School.**

**Present: S. Lemon, C. Johnson, G. Otto, P. Joyce**

**2 members of the public**

**28. Apologies for absence**

J. Roychoudhury (work). L. Godfrey (traffic problem).

**29. Declarations of interest**

None relevant at this stage

**30. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 20<sup>th</sup> 2017**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**31. Matters arising from the Minutes.**

None

**32. Discussion of document 'Ashton Neighbourhood Plan – planning policy assessment and evidence base review'**

This was discussed; many parts were deemed to be applicable only to larger developments than Ashton. Much of the rest was found to be acceptable but the following parts received particular attention:-

Page 4 'the area has no significant flood risk issues' The occasional flooding onto Hartwell Road near Orchard House was discussed but deemed overall to be not significant.

Page 9 'the NHBH plan should support growth of business and enterprise, both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings' It was felt that we need to gather more information on local businesses.

Page 23 Policy C1 refers to public transport. It was noted that recent responses from bus users in Ashton were positive and that Ashton seems to have a good bus service (at present).

Page 28. Policy H5 'securing the re-use of empty dwellings for residential use' Ashton has one empty dwelling.

Page 35,36 Policy INF2 refers to 'secondary service villages' and 'other villages' it was felt that Ashton would most likely be classed as a secondary village.

Page 42 Policy H17 'avoid the creation of a terracing effect by developing detached or semi-detached dwellings' This was discussed and found to be inexplicable.

Page 45. 'Local plan proposal map Ashton showing village confines' It was felt that this map needs revising eg the inclusion of Little Ashton within the confines. A member of the public pointed out that Little Ashton used to lie within the confines and that he possessed a map showing this.

Page 47 Policy EV16 'outside Ashton village the neighbourhood plan area is open countryside' This was noted with interest.

Page 48 Policy EV19 refers to trees with a preservation order. We currently are unsure which trees are affected by this.

Page 55 'Housing Requirement' There are 6 options listed. It would appear that Ashton has a requirement for 16 or 17 additional houses by 2029.

Page 64. 'refers to ridge and furrow'. It was noted that Ashton's ridge and furrow field is presently divided and owned by 2 people.

### **33. Grant Application Update**

Application for the second tranche has been made but not yet finalised

### **34. Actions before next meeting.**

S. Lemon to speak to Anne Sale re. local knowledge. G. Otto to speak to ex-resident re. local knowledge.

Also collectively to gather information on tree preservation orders in Ashton, business activities locally and local farmers.

### **35. Items for next meeting**

To discuss progress with Michael Wellock

### **36. Date of next Meeting – April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The meeting closed at 8.47pm.