

BOTESDALE AND RICKINGHALL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – Steering Group Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 3 October 2018, The Bell Inn

(Actions in *italics*.)

- 1) Welcome – sign in attendance and apologies for absence.

Present – Sue Coe, Di Maywhort, William Sargeant, Phil Schofield, Ian Poole (Consultant) and Leeann Jackson-Eve (Parish Clerk).

Apologies from Des Bavington Lowe, Jo Broadbent, Robin Brown and Clive Matthews.

- 2) Feedback from MSDC.

The Group discussed housing numbers. The government had introduced an affordability ratio which was median house price divided by median salary. This was applied to baseline housing numbers published in the government's annual housing growth forecast for each district to determine the housing need. In Mid Suffolk the baseline was 8000 houses and after applying the affordability ratio, this rose to 10,620 houses. Taking away planning permissions decided as of 1 April (4150) the residual number was 6470 houses. Although the distribution method had not yet been determined in the Joint Local Plan, it could be estimated. Botesdale and Rickinghall had 5.24% of the core village population and this worked out to a range of 51-102 houses. If core villages were assigned 40% of new housing, the number would go up to a maximum of 136 houses. If there were no decreases in the number of core villages proposed in the Joint Local Plan, the range would be 97-104. Botesdale and Rickinghall currently had enough in the pipeline to satisfy these requirements but MSDC had suggested adding a site to the allocations. Ian had responded querying why this was necessary. If required, one option would be to identify a site as a reserve site. It would not need to be included in the settlement boundary. The Local Plan would be consulted on in early-mid December for eight weeks. It was unlikely that it would be adopted until Spring 2020.

It was noted that if there was no 5-year housing supply and the NHP was over two years old, planning policy would be suspended in favour of sustainable development. To overcome this, there could be a formal item at each Annual Parish Meeting to confirm that the NHP was still fit for purpose.

The SEA/HRA screen would be undertaken as soon as the NHP was ready. Comment from the Steering Group and MSDC were currently being added.

- 3) AECOM.

AECOM had suggested that the report should not focus on specific sites. They had offered to come have a discussion. **William to circulate the email.**

- 4) Correspondence from SCC Property.

Brian Prettyman, SCC Senior Manager Corporate Property, had emailed to offer a meeting to discuss the inclusion of SCC property in the NHP. It was agreed that there was nothing to discuss yet. **William to respond.**

- 5) Consultation Events.

The official launch would take place on Friday, 9th November. PDF copies of the NHP would be available on the website with a link to the response survey on Survey Monkey. Hard copies would be available at The Bell and from William. A letter would go out to consultees by email. Posters and banners would go up around the village and locations for banners (NHP Have Your Say 9th Nov – 21st Dec) were discussed. The final copy of the NHP would be ready to print by 5 November.

Saturday, 10th November, 9am – 2pm at Botesdale Village Hall (**Des to organise refreshments**)

Friday, 16th November, 2.30pm – 7pm at Rickinghall Village Hall (**Di to organise refreshments**)

Saturday, 17th November, 9am – 2pm at Rickinghall Village Hall (**Des to organise refreshments**)

Sue to email Forum for cakes and help with serving. Phil to attend both Saturdays. William to attend the 16th and 17th, Sue to attend the 16th. Leeann to set up Survey Monkey, check print times and confirm with The Bell. Ian to forward question for survey. Phil to scout sites for banners and ask Charles Greenhough about the A-frame for a large poster at the Farmers' Market.

6) Councillors' Briefing.

Monday, 22nd October, 7.30pm at Botesdale Village Hall

William to lead – make sure Robin can attend.

7) Any other Business.

The PC consultation in January was discussed. A report would be prepared with notes on changes to each policy and this would go out with the agenda. It was agreed to get the consultation comments to Ian as soon as possible after 21st December.

8) Date and location of next meetings.

Steering Group – Tuesday, 16 October at 7pm, The Bell Inn.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm.