

Notes of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting 15th June 2023 at 7.45pm

In Attendance: Ian Smith, Nigel Aldis, Patricia Hall, Peter Holden, Michael Pearson, Sian Farrier (CBC), Jane Hubbard (CBC), Jane Marner, Roz Collins. Jo Graves (Clerk)

Apologies received: Rob Neville, Amanda Wade

Introduction to Neighbourhood Planning – Sian Farrier – CBC Policy and Planning Manager
(Powerpoint presentation)

Neighbourhood plans are usually led by the Town or Parish Council via a Steering Group and forms part of the strategic development plan.

Neighbourhood plans are not the same as Parish Plans as they have more weight regarding local issues. The Blunham Neighbourhood Plan does not need to duplicate the CBC Local Plan in terms of the level of detail, but policies can't contradict the Local Plan, but they can change the ways things are dealt with. It helps the Parish control what it wants from development, but cannot stop development.

There is no increase in the amount of S106 funding from CBC following the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan, as is the case with CIL funding in other areas.

Slide 4

Local Green spaces – can be areas which are for community use, classed as the same as green belt in national policy.

Green Infrastructure – green footways/spaces

Aspirations, hopes for S106 monies – wishlist for the village.

Slide 5

Community engagement – lots of ways. Make it interesting to encourage engagement at different stages of the consultation.

Specify the plan period – usually 5 years, but can be longer.

Slide 7

£10,000 is available for the whole of the Neighbourhood Plan, not per year. Apply via Locality. Funding not open at present, awaiting confirmation. A further £8,000 is available in specific circumstances. Can be used for technical support or a consultant. Decide areas to look at prior to getting the funding.

Questions

Community facilities – could look to safeguard facilities such as shops/pub.

Allocating sites for development is the hardest topic, it is done through a process – a call for sites. Needs criteria for objective assessment and lots of evidence. There is no obligation to allocate sites.

There are no allocated sites in Blunham in current CBC Local Plan. Don't need to do a housing needs assessment as CBC have done one, but it could be useful to survey residents for housing mix needs. In order to allocate sites you have to show support from landowners.

Formation of the Steering Group

Ian Smith, Nigel Aldis, Peter Holden, Patricia Hall and Michael Pearson completed their forms and joined the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Clerk to send forms to Amanda Wade and Rob Neville to ask if they would also like to join the Steering Group.

Next Meeting

It was agreed to meet initially on a monthly basis, the Clerk advised that she was not available on the second Thursday of the month. Clerk to check availability of Blunham Village Hall, although Michael Pearson advised that he had space to host the meeting.