

WESTON AND BASFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
STEERING GROUP
MINUTES OF MEETING
HELD 9th NOVEMBER 2015

PRESENT Councillor J Cornell (Chairman)

Councillors J Chambers, J Densem, T Gill,
Mr D Fanstone

IN ATTENDANCE Mr A Thomson

LOCAL PLAN

Andrew Thomson briefed the Group on his attendance on behalf of the Parish Council at the Examination in Public and the next stages of the Local Plan.

The Inspector was likely to present his interim findings (Strategic Housing Provision etc.....) late November/December. This would be followed by a further period of consultation by Cheshire East in the New Year on such matters as Green Gap and Strategic Housing Provision.

The private sector was pushing for an overall housing requirement of 40000 dwellings – an increase from the 36,000 currently proposed. It could well be 2017 before the Local Plan is in place.

All of this could have a significant effect on the Neighbourhood Plan. The Group needed to await the interim findings before embarking on the second questionnaire and crystallization of draft policies.

The Housing and Planning Bill was currently passing through Parliament and the final legislation could include provisions which would make it extremely difficult to resist development proposals. Andrew had already made representations to Fiona Bruce MP and a meeting was being set up with Edward Timpson. This would be handled under the ChALC umbrella.

The Gladman appeal could possibly be heard in early 2016 and the Parish Council's Rule 6 Statement had been submitted. Andrew was thanked for the excellent job he had done on this.

It was considered essential that a combined approach should be made on the Strategic Issue of the Green Gap by those Parish Councils who were members of ChALC on the periphery of Crewe and Nantwich (representing approx. 30,000 residents). There needed to be full participation in the forthcoming consultation exercise and representation around the table when the Examination in Public resumes. The funding arrangements for this would be discussed at the December Crewe & Nantwich Area Meeting to allow Parish Councils to make adequate budget provision.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN/ANALYSIS OF QUESTIONNAIRES

Members of the Steering Group had done some excellent work on the Neighbourhood Plan since the last meeting. The Chairman thanked John Chambers and Gordon Cook for statistical assimilation and presentation of the results of the questionnaire. Don Fanstone and John Densem for the Grant Aid submission to Locality. The application to Locality for grant funding had been approved in the sum of £4608 and these funds would need to be spent by 31st March 2016.

The Chairman was to meet with Mr T Evans to assess the work done to date by Cheshire East on Local Housing Need and Landscape. Rachel Giles of Cheshire Wildlife Trust would be invited to meet the Steering Group to discuss the work she will be doing to complement that of Cheshire East and would be asked to identify those areas worthy of protection by the Green Gap.

Trevor Sandry of the Wychwood Community Group was assisting in the extrapolation of data in relation to Wychwood Village.

The Group considered the results of the Questionnaire analysis. Andrew Thomson drew attention to those issues which needed further examination in the second questionnaire and to those draft policies which had received endorsement to date.

Date and Venue of next meeting. To be advised.