

**WESTON AND BASFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
STEERING GROUP
MINUTES OF MEETING
HELD 21ST SEPTEMBER 2017**

PRESENT Councillor J Cornell (Chairman)
Councillor J Chambers
Mr D Fanstone

APOLOGIES Councillors J Densem and T Gill

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN -REFERENDUM

The agreed comments on the Examiner's report on the Neighbourhood Plans had now been submitted to Cheshire East Council and a date for the referendum was still awaited.

Whilst other Neighbourhood Plans were in preparation locally, these were not as advanced as the Weston and Basford Plan and a joint referendum date would unduly delay the referendum for Weston & Basford. There had to be a time lag of 6 weeks between the Examiner's agreement to the NP and the referendum. 28 days of this runs concurrently to comply with referendum rules.

Members were concerned that the referendum should be held as soon as possible particularly in advance of the decision of the Haddon Appeal being announced. Andrew had been verbally advised by Tom Evans that CE were looking at a December date.

Councillor J Hammond had made strong representations to Councillor Ainsley Arnold, the Cabinet Member responsible for Housing and Planning to ensure an early date. Janet Clowes had also spoken with him. The Chairman reported on a meeting with representatives of the Wistaston and Willaston Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups which had considered the implications of the Restrictions on Publicity during the Referendum Period as contained in guidance notes issued by Cheshire East Council (all members of the Steering Group have an electronic copy of this).

It had been noted that the Regulations allowed the establishment and registration of Independent Campaign Groups which could spend up to £2362 plus 0.059p per elector on approved items. This expenditure would be funded by Cheshire East Council, but could not come out of Parish Council funds – JC to ascertain the mechanics. This would enable the Neighbourhood Plan to be positively promoted within the parish. Such a group could comprise the existing Steering Group and any additional non-parish council members. It could not be registered until 28 days before the referendum. It was agreed that this would be a good move and will be pursued by JC.

Whilst the response to the Examiner's comments had been submitted these did not appear on the Cheshire East website and enquiries would be made to ensure that the Plan had been amended correctly. JC to request Andrew to obtain this from CE.

JC to draft an unbiased leaflet for circulation within the parish and circulate the Steering Group for comment to enable us to move quickly once we had a date for the referendum – we needed to take advantage of the Locality funding before it expired in November. JC to circulate the Steering Group with the examples of leaflets received from Andrew.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: to be determined once we have a firm date for the referendum – we'll need to respond at short notice.