

SWANTON MORLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

A meeting of the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was held in Swanton Morley Village Hall on Monday 13th April 2017. The meeting commenced at 1.30pm.

Present: Mr R. Atterwill (Swanton Morley Parish Council) Chairman
Ms Y. Hendry (Greengate resident) Vice Chairman
Mr G. Curran (Keith Road resident)
Mr L. Brooks (Keith Road resident)
Mr S. Westbury (Parish Councillor)
Mr S. Taylor (Liberator Close resident)
Mr D. Sadler (Town Street resident)
Mr G. Palmer (Rectory Road resident)
Mr J. Keith (Local Landowner)
Mr S. Vincent (Neighbourhood Plan Consultant)
Mrs F. LeBon (Clerk to Swanton Morley Parish Council)
There were no members of the public in attendance

Time Allocated to the Public

No matters raised.

1) Welcome

Mr Atterwill welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

2) To Receive Apologies for Absence

No apologies received

3) To Receive Declarations of Interest

No declarations made

4) To Agree Minutes from 20th March 2017 as a True and Accurate Record of the Meeting.

Mr Curran proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting, seconded by Mr Westbury and carried.

5) To Receive Matters Arising from Minutes 20th March 2017

None raised.

Mr Keith Joined the Meeting

6) To Receive Report on Responses to Pre-Submission Consultation and Consider any Resulting Amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan

Mr Vincent had forwarded all comments resulting from the pre-submission consultation and his suggested responses to the Steering Group. It was noted that this was a very comprehensive 155 page document. There had been 49 responses to the consultation and this consisted of a good mixture of consultees, including individuals, Local Authorities, developers and utility companies. Mr Atterwill mentioned that the majority of responses were very complimentary and those which did not agree with the plan provided constructive criticism.

It was agreed that where there were no proposed changes to the plan, then no debate would be required.

Response 26 – MoD. As per the previous meeting, it was agreed to remove the sports pitches on Robertson Barracks as important areas of open space. This was requested by the MoD. Mr Taylor wished for further debate on the matter as he thought this was not wise. The Clerk advised that this

was agreed in the previous meeting and it was further agreed that the committee had little justification to keep this area in due to the lack of MoD support and the level of open space already available in the village.

Response 39 – Anglian Water. Policy 14 has been amended to include sustainable drainage systems and the requirement to provide future maintenance and management funding for mitigation measures. Extra criteria will be added to Policy 12 to require developments of 10 or more to have undertaken a sewage capacity assessment.

Mr Keith queried whether Swanton Morley Parish Council has been consulted on the proposed sewage network drainage plan. It is essential that capacity remains in the system to cope with any new development in Swanton Morley, as it is proposed that sewage from new development in Dereham will be processed in Swanton Morley. Mr Atterwill read an email from Anglian Water confirming that the Parish Council will be consulted as part of a working group. When the Parish Council is consulted they will need to make sure that there is capacity for future development in Swanton Morley.

Mr Atterwill explained that planning permission can be granted with a planning condition that the foul sewage needs to be connected before any occupation of the site. Furthermore, the email from Anglian Water states that they have a legal obligation to remove foul flows from new developments.

The Clerk advised that Anglian Water has seen the pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan and has commented on it, making no mention of capacity.

Response 43 – Norfolk County Council. Norfolk County Council has suggested that the Neighbourhood Plan includes a policy for the installation of sprinklers in every new property. It was agreed that this could be seen as being overly onerous without any evidence to justify why this specific requirement is necessary for the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Area but not policy for any other area of Norfolk or UK. Norfolk County Council suggested that the Neighbourhood Plan should refer to the local County Wildlife Sites or to the Wensum Trail. This was agreed.

It was agreed to expand policy 14 to include a wider range of flood risk, using wording as recommended by Norfolk County Council.

Norfolk County Council had suggested a policy to allow for on-road parking. Ms Hendry felt that on-road parking was dangerous, particularly for children. Mr Keith felt that with the housing density there is in Swanton Morley, all parking can be accommodated off-road. It was agreed not to include a policy for on-road parking.

Mr Atterwill raised concerns about policy 6 (planning obligations), regarding a possibility that an examiner might construe it as being a mechanism to block development, and suggested that it should be reworded to make the policy more specific to areas of planning obligations that the Parish Council would have an interest in. It was agreed that the policy should be reworded so that the Parish Council should be consultees on all S106 agreements and that the Parish Council should be signatories on all items affecting the parish eg: open space, recreational land and additionally requested community benefits. Mr Vincent will reword and email to the Steering Group.

An error was identified on page 78, whereby the consultant's response to a consultee suggesting that the Village Hall car park be used for school car parking, advised that there is no footpath from the Village Hall to the school, where the actually is. Mr Taylor thought that the Village Hall car park had too many pot holes to be used for school car parking. This was disputed as the Village Hall caretaker has been repairing pot holes on a weekly basis and this system is working very well. It was further explained that when the school did their travel plan, they would not commit to a financial contribution to help keep the Village Hall car park in good order. Furthermore, the Light Dragoons used to run a minibus from the Barracks to the school but the Queens Dragoons Guards cannot do this as military vehicles now cannot be used for civilian purposes, thus increasing car traffic to the school.

Mr Atterwill advised that he had attended the recent SNAP meeting where police patrols were promised to address anti-social parking outside schools.

It was felt that there was no one active at the school to encourage walking or cycling days.

Mr Sadler queried the consultant's response to concerns that ancient trees will be felled if Hoe Road East is widened. Mr Atterwill confirmed that the only tree with a Tree Preservation Order on Hoe Road East is a sycamore.

Mr Vincent reported that he, Mr Atterwill and the Clerk had met with Susan Heinrich (Breckland District Council's Neighbourhood Plan officer) to discuss Breckland District Council's responses to the pre-submission consultation. She has been asked to provide Breckland District Council's planning reasons for their objections. In addition to this, Breckland District Council objected to the text being justified, however Mr Vincent did point out that Breckland District Council's Core Strategy document has been justified.

It was noted that Breckland District Council's comments were not very well balanced, with nothing positive to say about the Neighbourhood Plan whatsoever.

Mr Vincent advised that Ms Heinrich has asked for all draft documents so that she can review them. It was agreed that this was not suitable for Swanton Morley. The expectation is that the documents will be deemed as sound and the independent examiner will ask for a policy to be modified if it does not conform to other prevailing policies.

The outline timetable as detailed on page 88 has been given to Breckland District Council and there have been no adverse comments to this to date. It is hoped that the Neighbourhood Plan will go to examination in July and referendum in September. For Breckland District Council, the public consultation is a statutory duty therefore the decision to consult should not need to go to committee or Cabinet.

Mr Curran expressed the need for the document to be reviewed by an independent person and the independent examiner is the ideal person to do this. The Clerk agreed as Breckland District Council had often responded to the pre-submission consultation with the opinion of a landowner, rather than a Local Planning Authority.

Mr Vincent also advised that Breckland District Council did not wish for the Parish Council to be the deciding factor in policy 5 (exception sites). The Clerk had raised Breckland District Council's own policy (PD05b) needed community support for this policy to apply, and Parish Council support was therefore giving a mechanism to prove community support.

Mr Keith queried the effect of any challenge when the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted and where the liability was. Mr Vincent clarified that all liability was with Breckland District Council.

Mr Atterwill read a message from Captain Mansel from the Queens Dragoons Guard about the likelihood of the grass airstrip being reopened on Robertson Barracks to accommodate the Glider Squadron. Whilst no final decision has been made yet, if this goes ahead it will mean significant investment in the barracks and reduce the likelihood of closure.

7) To Receive Update on Breckland District Council's Local Plan

The Local Plan is now going through the process of Overview and Scrutiny. No more Local Plan Working Groups are planned.

8) To Consider any Further Matters Relating to the Neighbourhood Plan

Mr Vincent advised that the Neighbourhood Plan and all supporting documents can now be completed.

9) To Agree Items to be Considered by Swanton Morley Parish Council

Nothing at present.

10) To Agree Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 24th April at 7pm, to finalise the plan, to be considered by the Parish Council on 8th May. Apologies for this meeting were given by Ms Hendry and Mr Brooks.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

_____ (Chairman) _____ Date