

SWANTON MORLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

A meeting of the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was held in Swanton Morley Village Hall on Wednesday 9th October 2019. The meeting commenced at 7pm.

Present: Mr R. Atterwill (Swanton Morley Parish Council) (Chairman)
Mr G. Curran (Keith Road resident and Parish Councillor)
Mr L. Brooks (Keith Road resident)
Mr J. Rodrigues (Village Shop and Parish Councillor)
Mr S. Taylor (Liberator Close resident)
Ms Y. Hendry Greengate Resident (Vice Chair)
Mr S. Vincent (Neighbourhood Plan Consultant)

Also in attendance were Mr D. Turner (Parish Councillor observing proceedings) and Mrs K. Pickard (Clerk).

Time Allocated to the Public

No matters raised.

1) Welcome

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

2) To Receive Apologies for Absence

Mr S. Westbury (Hannah Road resident and Parish Councillor)
Mrs B. O'Dowd (Worthing Road resident and Parish Councillor)
Mr I. Cawdron (Thompson Close resident and Parish Councillor)
Mr J. Keen (Harkers Lane resident and Parish Councillor)

3) To Receive Declarations of Interest

No declarations made

4) To Agree Minutes from 25th July 2018 as a True and Accurate Record of the Meeting.

Mr Taylor made an observation that in the previous minutes policy 15 was mentioned however in the new referendum copy of the neighbourhood plan this has now disappeared. Mr Atterwill assured him that given the length of time between meetings this will be addressed in item 6 on the agenda. Mr Curran proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate reflection of the meeting, seconded by Mr Rodrigues and carried. Mr Atterwill signed the minutes.

5) To Receive Matters Arising from Minutes 25th July 2018.

None raised.

6) To Receive Comments on the Referendum Version of the Neighbourhood Plan

The Steering Group were sent the up to date Referendum Version 3 of the Neighbourhood Plan for consideration prior to the meeting.

Mr Atterwill explained that recent delays had occurred due to the examiner beginning his examination on the incorrect version of the plan. Breckland Council addressed this and the examination has been completed.

During the process, Policy 15 – Housing Mix has now been removed as the examiner referred to it as a 'weak policy':

Mr Atterwill then reported that no one had asked for a 'call in' by the deadline which means that the referendum can now take place.

Mr Taylor asked Mr Atterwill why the Version number had not been changed to 4, to which Mr Atterwill responded that the Neighbourhood Planning Co-ordinator had decided to keep the version number the same. Mr Atterwill had received a Version 4, which he queried, however, Breckland Council confirmed that the referendum version number would remain version 3.

Mr Curran then stated that the named document is 'Referendum Version' so this should avoid any confusion.

Mr Atterwill did highlight that if any grammar corrections need to be made then they may still make very minor adjustments for grammar and spelling post referendum.

Mr Taylor then asked if the Neighbourhood Plan referendum was successful would Breckland Council have to adopt it? Mr Vincent responded that Breckland Council do not 'have' to formally adopt the plan however it will already be in place so they would have to adhere to the policies as laid out.

Mr Atterwill then stated that the policies within the Neighbourhood Plan will carry weight with planning applications.

Mr Vincent went on to quote a ministerial statement that was made in the House of Commons: **"the government set out that where communities have planned for housing growth in their area through a neighbourhood plan, which is less than 2 years old, and where the Local Planning Authority are able to demonstrate a three year supply of housing then decision makers should give significant weight to the neighbourhood plan notwithstanding the fact that the local planning authority cannot demonstrate a 5-year supply of deliverable housing sites"**

Mr Atterwill then gave an example of a planning application that is currently being considered by Breckland Council for 34 bungalows and how the policy below will need to be taken account of:

Policy 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan:

"Outside the defined settlement boundary development will not be supported unless it involves:

- i) Rural exception sites;**
- ii) Dwellings to meet the essential need for a rural worker;**
- iii) Development involving the re-use of redundant or disused buildings;**
- iv) Farm diversification; and**
- v) Rural tourism related development.**

The development of residential curtilages in the countryside will be resisted where it would lead to significant change to the landscape character"

7) To Consider Actions on the Run up to the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

Mr Atterwill updated that as a Parish Council, we are not permitted to campaign for a positive vote.

Mr Curran enquired if this included 'as individuals' and Mr Vincent responded that individuals may talk to other parties regarding the referendum but may not encourage a 'yes' vote.

Mr Atterwill then explained that there was an opportunity to form a 'campaign group' and register them with Electoral Services, however due to the time constraint Mr Atterwill was unsure if this would be an option.

Mr Atterwill then read out the front page article of the Autumn Mardler to show how this is being promoted:

"Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan - It's Time to Vote!

Please take the time to cast your vote in the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan Referendum. The polling station will be open on **Thursday, 14th November** from 7am until 10pm at the Village Hall (Bar Area). This is the final stage in the plan being adopted by the village and your vote is important. You will receive your polling cards shortly. To view the most recent version of the Plan and supporting

documentation please visit our website or view paper copies held at the Village Hall and the shop”

Mr Brookes requested this be sent to him for publication in the Link UP for November. The Clerk will send this by email.

Mr Atterwill suggested the possibility of a ‘Saturday morning surgery’ to answer any questions from the public but has been advised against this by Breckland Council.

Ms Hendry asked if everyone was allowed to vote, Mr Atterwill responded that everyone on the Electoral Register is entitled to vote.

Mr Rodrigues asked if he could speak about it to the public in the Village Shop, Mr Vincent then confirmed that the rule states that members of the Parish Council may encourage a vote but not a ‘yes’ vote.

It was suggested that the following are the best advised ways of getting the information out:

- Word of mouth to friends and neighbours
- Push social media platforms
- Link Up article
- Website to contain information

Mr Atterwill then suggested that the Clerk obtain a quotation for three banners/posters to be placed in the Village to let the parishioners know about the referendum. Mr Atterwill said he is conscious that there have been new residents move into the Village since the start of this process who may not be aware of the plan or the referendum.

The Clerk is to request a quotation for the banners to include neutral information about the referendum and produce this at the full Council meeting on Monday 14th October.

Mr Vincent then read out the official statement “The town or parish council may encourage voting and disseminate information on the proposed neighbourhood plan, within reasonable expense limits. Town and parish councils can only use public money to produce factual material about the neighbourhood plan, not to promote a ‘yes’ vote.

Mr Curran asked, following the vote, whether he could attend the count. Mr Atterwill responded by saying yes he assumed this would be ok.

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

The Clerk to obtain a quotation for the banners before the next Council meeting.

Mr Atterwill then addressed the room that providing there is a positive outcome for the Neighbourhood Plan then this will be the final Steering Group meeting, so he took the opportunity to thank everyone who has attended meetings and shown support for the Neighbourhood Plan over the four and a half year process producing very strong policies and documents.

Mr Vincent seconded the thanks and highlighted that the Neighbourhood Plan will be in place to direct growth where the Village wants it to be and having a Neighbourhood Plan offers opportunities for the Village.

Thanks were extended to the individuals who could not be in attendance at this meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

_____ (Chairman) _____ Date