

Heslington Neighbourhood Plan

Minutes of the Steering Group meeting held on 23rd March 2016 at the Heslington Village Meeting room

Present: - David Blacketer [DB], Bill McClean [BM], Nick Allen [NA], Andrew Collingwood [AC], Richard Frost [RF], John Lawton [JL],
Apologies were received from Tony Loffill, Niall McTurk.

Also in attendance: - Richard Bramley, Ben Percy, Tom Percy.

1. DB welcomed all attendees.
2. The minutes of the Steering Group [SG] meeting held on 5th November 2015 were approved.
3. Terms of reference. DB explained that it was important for the Steering group to have clear terms of reference. The SG was a sub-committee of the Heslington PC. It was important that all action by the group should be open to public scrutiny. Agendas for meetings would be posted on the Village notice board and on the PC website which now has a section for the NP. All meetings would be open to members of the public as it was important to involve people living or having an interest in the Plan area including farm owners and tenants. DB produced a typical Terms of Reference document. This was open to comment and it would be important to agree a suitable document when permission is received from CYC to proceed with the Plan. When approved by the SG it would go to the PC for final approval. Voting rights of members of the SG would be controlled by current legislation.
4. Current application progress. Noted that the application is currently for the whole of the Heslington Parish less the Heslington East built area, Halifax College and Heslington West Campus to the North of the Conservation Area. Walnut Close and parts of two dwellings off Spring Lane had also inadvertently been excluded from the application but the PC had informed CYC that this was an error and that they would like to correct just this on the final plan. It is expected that CYC will reach a decision regarding the area designated for the NP on 14th April. The officer's report would be available on 7th April. Details of comments received might be available on 7th April. Noted that University of York wished to exclude the "22 acres" sportsfield, between the golf course and Holmfield Lane, from the Plan area. This would be strongly resisted by the SG. DB stated that he would attend and speak at the meeting on 14th and RF agreed to accompany him. [DB and RF]

It was reported at the recent Good Neighbours Group meeting on 1 February 2016, "that the Parish Council's preferred position would be the exclusion of Halifax and all University property, but with the inclusion of 22 acres [sports field area, between the golf course and Holmefield Lane]. This was in anticipation of future aspirations to safeguard the area against future development. It was noted that the NP boundary would not override any future planning requests, and that the Council's expectation was that the current Parish boundary will form the basis of the Neighbourhood Plan. If the Parish were to include any part of the campus, the costs of consultation would be huge".

5. Vice Chairman Appointment. BM explained that all such groups are required to have a Vice-Chairman as part of the system. JL offered to fill this position so long as the NP area is approved more or less as currently applied for. His appointment was proposed by BM and seconded by RF and approved by all.
6. Neighbourhood Planning Grants and support. DB explained that we could apply for a grant of up to £9000 but would be expected to spend it within the financial year. Suggested we apply for less now and than more later. Advice needed on costs of printing, open day, consultant facilitator and consulting with local businesses and landowners. Agreed we should get advice from Locality.org.uk on this.
[Action DB]
7. Consultant appointment. BM to enquire from other local PCs what consultant they had employed, whether they were helpful and what shortcomings there were. Agreed that a consultant would be needed for early guidance regarding the open days, the need for a facilitator, what to say and what not to say, and on getting the process right from the start and not open to criticism.
[Action BM]
8. Questionnaire review. Query whether the Plan is for a specific 15 years or to tie in with the Local Plan. A number of suggestions were made including the need for comments on business development, the need for the questions to be more neutral and the opportunity for residents to say what they think is good and what not good, what they would change. Important to be able to say at the end that the Plan objectives are carefully written for residents. RF agreed to draft a revised questionnaire for consideration. Action [RF and BM]
9. Road map and timetable. Agreed that it was too early to be able to produce this.
10. Next meeting date - to be fixed for end of April. [BM]