

A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR EGERTON

WORKING GROUP

Minutes of meeting on Wednesday 8 November 2017 held in the meeting room, Egerton Sports Pavilion

Present: Peter Rawlinson - in the Chair (Egerton Parish Council Vice-Chairman), Jane Carr, Sarah Elworthy, Graham Howland, Ian Mella, Mel Rawlinson, Claire Stevens, Lois Tilden (note-taker).
Apologies: Chris Burgess, Fiona Fraser-Boulton, Elaine Graham, Richard King (EPC Chairman).

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 October were approved. All minutes to date are on the EPC website and will continue to be made publicly available.

Matters arising from previous minutes:

1. Boosting interest and broadening consultation

Graham confirmed he was working on a strategy with Fiona Fraser Boulton and Hazel Harper (Olivia had been unable to participate) to boost engagement with those in the village, most notably younger people, who appeared to be less connected with the scope and process of a Neighbourhood Plan. The aim was to document findings and conclusions, submit recommendations to the Group by 29 November, then implement them as soon as possible thereafter. This would help to demonstrate how effective the Group was in keeping in touch with the full spectrum of the village in order to take into consideration the broadest range of views. Fiona and Hazel's experience was of great value in this aspect of the Plan's consultation process and the work of this sub-group much appreciated. **Action: GH to report back**

2. Timetable

A timetable revision had not yet been produced but it was agreed an update was essential, to take account of additional work to be undertaken. It was important to keep up momentum and formulate a Plan in time to be included in Ashford Borough Council's 2030 Plan currently in its second draft stage. It was agreed the timetable would be reviewed and revised at the next meeting and that ABC would be approached to find out when their final 2030 Plan was due. **Action: All, LT to ask ABC**

3. Workshop outcomes

Analyses of the workshop comments had been helpfully carried out and circulated by Mel and Jane, whose painstaking work- with help from Elaine and Sarah - was appreciated. The basic findings were about to be published by Mel in the latest Egerton Update, divided between substantive issues for the Neighbourhood Plan and some linked or unrelated action points for the Parish Council. Mel had circulated the front-page article to the Group in draft form before going to press. It was agreed that the Parish Council should be approached officially in writing to seek agreement that those points would form part of the Council's review of the earlier Parish Plan. This would help to reassure villagers that their concerns would be addressed, whether or not they were linked to components of a Neighbourhood Plan. An example of this was traffic speeding in the village, a topic discussed at some length. Sarah had provided EPC with additional information on a range of traffic calming measures to add to its collection of ideas for consideration. **Action: LT to contact EPC**

It was agreed that the sentiments arising from the workshops (as set out in the combined analysis chart circulated earlier and summarised in the Update article) needed to be prioritised. Details would be fleshed out in readiness for a further round of consultation across the village, in the form of focus groups and questionnaires. The key headings were identified as below, with the lead person/people

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in *Italics*, to draw out: a) the relevant responses from the workshops; b) the weight of the responses; and c) the components of the responses in the light of the draft criteria for development prepared earlier by LT and CB. The draft criteria would then be revised as necessary, ensuring coverage of the various issues emerging from the course of consultation. It was agreed this would be an iterative process over time: as consultation became more refined, so would the factors in each category and thus the criteria would be further modified. It was agreed it was important that the members of the Group would not sway - nor be seen to sway - the outcome. This would be achieved by thoroughness and by remaining objective researchers and facilitators.

Maintaining the rural environment including views, vistas, green spaces, ecology – *Mel Rawlinson +, Ian Mella – with input from Melanie Cox*, who had taken the photos for the presentation.

Action: MR to speak to Melanie Cox

Housing development – needs, types, size, design, site location, sustainability *Lois Tilden+Richard King + Elaine Graham*

Action: LT to ask RK & EG to help with this topic; LT to seek further information about housing needs assessment from Ashford BC's Housing team; RK to ask Action for Communities in Rural Kent about scope for their assistance in a housing survey; LT to seek update from RK about older people's housing needs; LT/RK to seek written confirmation from ABC that the proposal in EPC's comments in August to ABC on the draft Borough Plan – that the gift of land from Derek Marks for older/disabled people's accommodation - was acceptable in principle. LT to bring extracts of the ABC draft plan to the next meeting and to provide ABC's check-list of development criteria set out in the draft ABC Plan.

Local Businesses - economic wealth, demand, location – *Claire Stevens + Jane Carr + Chris Burgess* **Action: JC to ask CB**

Infrastructure – identification of existing and expansion of facilities, highways, transport, to meet increased demand - *Peter Rawlinson – who could seek information from Pat Parr and also Chris Stevens who had compiled aspects of this topic – notably sewerage systems - for the Parish Plan.*

Action: PR to approach PP and CS

Community Well-being – health, recreation, education – *Sarah Elworthy + AN Other?* **Action : SE to ask another member of the group or other helper to assist**

Overall

In discussion, questions arose about the justification for any further development sites and the dovetailing of the Neighbourhood Plan into national and local planning policies/strategies. It was agreed that the Plan should seek to complement other policies and still achieve a sustainable and realistic outcome for Egerton, in the face of potential pressure from outside sources. It was agreed that all members of the Group would need to draw on a wealth of existing data and official information (such as derived from the Office of National Statistics). This would assist in providing the evidence base needed for a robust Neighbourhood Plan. It was also agreed that sources of grant funding should be pursued to cover the costs of progressing and finalising the Plan in accordance

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with defined Government procedures. **Action: PR to investigate and report back on funding sources**

It was acknowledged at this stage that more expertise was needed and that other professionals should be approached. To start, it was decided that the following should be invited to the next meeting on 29 November with a view to *pro bono* input:

Janet Poplett – Whitehead Monckton – lawyers **Action: PR to approach JP**

Jerry Crossley - planning **Action: LT to approach JC**

Bryant Kingsley-Smith - lawyers **Action: IM to approach BKS**

Brachers - lawyers **Action: JC to approach B**

Other next steps/Any Other Business

It was agreed that the Group should use the opportunity of the Glebe Christmas fair on 9 December to set out their stall. This should include with a pop-up display to test out with the Glebe attendees the key Neighbourhood Plan findings and conclusions to date, aiding the consultation/informative process. Peter would investigate the provision of a marquee and other items that would be needed. Members of the group would need to volunteer to play a part. Lois would provide “Egerton” hessian bags for sale, perhaps containing some festive berries or other seasonal goodies, with the net profits going towards the Group funds. Graham suggested the idea of a competition/quiz such as “Guess the acreage of Egerton” to inspire young or old to take an interest and win a prize. (GH had usefully calculated this.) The Group could also invite people to suggest a catchy logo or mascot, for a prize. **Action: LT , PR, GH**

4. Next meeting

The next meeting is on Wednesday 29 November at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.