

A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR EGERTON

STEERING GROUP

Minutes of meeting Saturday 11 May 2019 at 10.00 am, Hall Committee Room

1. **Present:** JC, JCr, EG, CS, LT (Sec)
2. **Apologies for absence:** GH, RK, IM (*it was noted that RK was in hospital and all wished him well*)
3. **Declarations of Interest:** EG (re. older people's housing)
4. **Approval of minutes of last meeting 1 April 2019**
5. **Action and follow-up points from previous meeting** (except where listed separately in Item 6):

Website: access via mobile phones now highly successful

KCC Rights of way (definitive) map: CS had now received this from Pat Parr and it was agreed this would be ideal to include in the NP as an Annex.

Meeting with EPC on 10 or 11 July: the new Parish Council would be meeting on 14 May and the proposed options would be floated again then. LT would represent the NP group, as one of the new parish councillors. **Action LT**

Egerton Update: publication was due after the EPC meeting on 14 May and distribution imminent. LT had drafted a brief article for it about the NP.

Site Selection Criteria: JCr, EG and CS had visited nearly all of the sites with a view to testing the validity of the matrix (rather than assessing the sites themselves). A further meeting was fixed for 13 May and the team would report back any shortcomings in the matrix and their observations by 27 May. Once any ensuing amendments had been made, consideration would be given to bringing in someone independent of the NP Group to assess its effectiveness as an objective tool for evaluating proposed development sites. It was agreed that since the matrix had been drawn up based on ABC's policies, but with Egerton's own perspective built in, it did not need to be as elaborate as ABC's detailed matrix. The final version would then be sent to the consultants for their views. **Action: CS,EG,JCr**

6. **Developing NP Policies:** progress report and discussion on first drafts:
 - **General** - several drafts had been produced. It was recognised that there was a need to ensure that all the drafts included evidence, views of people in

the parish and, on the lines of the text boxes in LT's draft, a summary of the policy emerging from the findings,. The thread that would run through the policies would be "**Protect, Sustain, Develop**", and although it had emerged in drafting that there was some overlap in the substance between the three aspects, it would still be possible to draw out each one or a combination of them in the drafting. It was acknowledged that there would be a considerable editing job to ensure consistency in content, layout and style of each heading. A selection of maps, diagrams & photos at appropriate points in the NP would make it more appealing and meaningful. It was agreed that revised drafts would need to be tested out with the consultants, and everyone in the village would be given the opportunity to comment via a combination of means – such as another workshop, a leaflet to all households, website and other media. **Action: All**

- **Views and vistas** - LT would speak to GH about making his contribution. LT had already made some reference to the topic in the "Environment" draft and could do further drafting if GH provided facts and evidence. **Action: LT, GH**
- **Heritage sites (CS)** – CS had access to more data and useful websites so she would produce a draft policy by the end of May. **Action: CS**
- **Green Spaces**, project, report & policy draft - LT & EG had produced an assessment report following a tour of the village. They would meet again in a week to assess other possibilities for green space designation that were in private ownership and produce an updated report. The overall list would need to be pruned, but advice from the consultants would be needed once a final draft was ready. JC would take up with EPC the issue of apparent development encroachment at one public site. **Action: EG, LT, JC**
- **Footpaths, bridleways, ancient woodland** - LT would speak to GH about producing material and she could then help put together a draft policy. **Action: LT, GH**
- **Protection of the distinctive settlement** and overall environment - LT's draft had covered extensive ground and the subject matter inevitably cut across a number of the other policies. She had attempted to devise policy statements relating to many of the other topics but there were gaps in the evidence that she and others needed to complete. Climate change was referred to in the draft but it was agreed this should be strengthened in view of the recognition globally and nationally of the current urgency for action - both to mitigate against climate change and to take steps to adapt to it. **Action: LT**
- **Parish design statement** - JCr had produced a very clear and succinct draft policy statement. JCr would discuss with LT how best to merge his document with hers.

- **Support for local businesses & rural economy and local work opportunities** - IM had produced a useful draft. It was agreed that there were some other sources of material that would help develop the draft further, such as the adverts in Egerton Update, the listings already produced by CS, Chris Burgess and JC, and information in the Egerton Welcome pack about local businesses (produced by Pat Parr). Agricultural diversification such as tourism, leisure industry, work involving heavy machinery, livery stabling & farmers market would need to feature. The school and pre-school was also a linked theme but this justified a separate policy statement and it also linked with transport (including cycling) and sustainable communities. JC would contact IM about this. **Action: JC, IM**
- **Housing mix** – *not yet produced, RK unwell (much of the material would be in the Housing needs survey)*. JC had been in touch with the English Rural Housing Association, and had received a helpful brochure about their work with communities in developing community housing partnerships. It was agreed this held promise. JC is also researching Community Land Trusts as an option for development. **Action: RK**
- **Infrastructure** – JC had produced a draft, some of which had been duplicated by LT. They agreed to meet on 15 May to discuss merging and enhancing the texts. **Action: JC,LT**

7. **Any Other Business:**

JC suggested, and it was agreed, that a more realistic **timetable** was now needed on the website. JC would review this. **Action: JC**

An open meeting for people in the village was agreed to be essential – ideally Saturday 13 July 10am -2pm - but subject to the availability of the Hall or Games Barn. EG would check. Beforehand, a flyer or leaflet would have to be produced and delivered to each household, including each of the policies (or a summary of them). **Action: EG, and All**

Gale King had provided JC with a map showing Kent Wildlife Trust's designated **Local Wildlife Sites** in Egerton, mainly in the wooded areas on the Greensand Ridge. The information confirmed that there were no Special Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in the parish. LT would use the information to expand on the Environment policy (as needed, within the topic led by GH). **Action: LT,GH**

8. **Next meetings:**

19 June, 11 and 12 July (one of which with EPC) in the Committee room; 13 July event tbc.

The meeting ended at 12.20pm