

A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR EGERTON

WORKING GROUP

Minutes of Meeting Thursday 11 July 2019 at 7.30pm, Hall Committee Room

1. **Attendance and apologies for absence – present: JC (Ch), EG, RK, IM, CS, LT (Sec). Apologies from GH, JCr.**
2. **Declarations of Interest: EG, RK (older peoples' housing)**
3. **The minutes of the previous meeting on 19 June 2019 were approved.**
4. **Review of meeting with EPC**

It was agreed that it had been a fruitful meeting with EPC. Councillors had studied the draft documents sent to them and expressed their appreciation of the amount, quality and depth of work carried out to date. Questions and ideas put to the NP group were helpful and constructive. In some cases, it had prompted some revisions to draft policies – such as the road network not being conducive to new business development; an enhanced footpath from the Forstal to the top of the village; the need to consult owners of historic houses that were not officially Listed Buildings, if intending to include them in the Plan; and the need for more positive action on broadband and mobile phone coverage. The NP group asked councillors to build on and extend their enthusiasm to engage more members of the public in thinking about the Plan and its implications. It was agreed at this meeting that EPC should be asked to add an item to the Agenda of the next EPC meeting to comment on their perspective of the joint meeting, pass on further comments on the draft documents and invite them to attend the open event on 21 September. **Action: LT**

LT had already drafted a note of that meeting and invited comments from members of this Group by 19 July, so that it could be sent to councillors for further comment, for the record. **Action: All**

5. **Draft policies**

JC had made a start at further refining the policies following comments from some in the Group. RK agreed to send his amendments immediately; JC would then issue a further revision and seek comments in the form of suggested re-wording from each one in the Group by 15 August. **Action: JC, All**

It was agreed that in view of the high expense of paper and printer ink falling to members of the Group, that such expenses could be claimed (as for councillors).

- a. **Trees, hedges etc** – GH was to meet the Regional Tree Warden this week and would report back findings and observations. **Action: GH**
- b. **Heritage sites** - CS was to speak to Helen Garnett, ABC about ABC's details of heritage assets (although HG is due to move on, and in future the contact will be Ian Grundy). LT had a number of old maps for CS to look at for boundary markers and other features. **Action: CS, LT**
- c. **Green spaces** – LT was due to send clarification and revisions of the mapping carried out by the consultants back to them for correction and addition. **Action: LT**
- d. **Footpath proposal** - The idea for an enhanced path from Egerton Forest to the top of the village had met with EPC support. Therefore it was agreed to pursue the idea with the KCC Rights of Way team and with a variety of potential funders for the project and for maintenance funding. The potential funding sources would be through the Wickens Trust and via KCC councillor Charlie Simkins. The landowners would also need consulting (subject to KCC advice) in due course.

Action: JC

6. **Landowners responses and site assessment**

JC reported that she had only heard from a few of the site owners about the prospect of affordable homes and recreation/leisure space where needed. It was agreed that landowners not willing to consider the factors and features outlined in JC's letter should be ruled out. They would be given until 19 July to respond and would be sent a further letter telling them they were ruled out unless they responded positively by the end of July.

Action: JC

7. **Site selection criteria – matrix**

LT was refining the matrix following consultants' latest comments (which were slightly confusing in view of their earlier comments). It was agreed that it was important to emphasise the need to use brownfield sites (i.e. those that had been developed in the recent past and where buildings were either under-used or redundant) in relation to business development, in view of the existence of several such sites in the parish that were less likely to be suitable for housing other than for individual barn conversions. Accordingly the draft policy on this would need to be more explicit.

Action: LT

Following amendments, it was agreed that a small sub group – CS, IM, EG, and GIS mapping by GH - would assess each site that had responded positively to JC's request.

Action: EG,IM, CS, GH

After the exercise had been carried out, it would be agreed that ABC (Ian Grundy) and consultants should be appraised of the findings, for their views before going public. It was acknowledged that the village confines exercise launched by ABC would follow on from this and that any site selected outside of the outlined confines would be the subject of a s.106 Agreement exception site in view of the need for local affordable housing.

Action: JC/LT

8. Preparation for 21st September Open Day

JC would firstly revise the policies, the timetable and a Summary of Housing needs, subject to comments from the Group. Maps and diagrams would need to be prepared, relevant to each of the policies and proposals.

Action: All

Simple eye-catching publicity would be required- initially in Egerton Update - by 18 July copy date.

Action: EG to draft "poster"

Further publicity would be needed nearer the time. **Action: All to be engaged with publicity and setting up the Hall**

It was agreed that when policies were "finalised" well before the event, that the next meeting to go over them and agree a strategy for holding the event (plus catering, incentives to attend etc) should include our consultants (notably Chris Patterson, South Downs NPA). Dates to suggest were either Monday 2 or Tuesday 3 September.

Action: LT

9. Any other business – none

10. Confirmation of date of next meetings and venues:

Either Monday 2 or Tuesday 3 September – tbc; Open event in the Hall 10-4 on Saturday 21 September.

The meeting ended at 9.45pm