

A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR EGERTON

WORKING GROUP

Minutes of meeting Wednesday 17 June 2020 at 5.30 pm, virtually via Zoom

Present: Jane Carr (Chair), Jerry Crossley, Elaine Graham, Graham Howland, Richard King, Ian Mella, Claire Stevens, Lois Tilden (Secretary)

1. **Apologies for absence** no-one absent
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Elaine Graham, Richard King (housing for older people); Graham Howland (sites for potential development, third party connection).
3. **The minutes of the meeting on 9 March** were approved.
4. **Matters arising not covered by the agenda**
5. **Consultation on the Plan**
 - a. As the coronavirus (Covid-19) took hold and the Government-decreed lockdown occurred on 23 March, no meetings or events could take place and there was no clear idea as to when any such events could be re-arranged. Nevertheless, JC said that the official central advice was that the consultation would still be valid if we took all reasonable steps to alert people to the draft plan and to seek responses to the questionnaire. She would double-check to make sure we fulfilled our obligations. It was agreed we would extend the deadline for responses to **10 July**. Some of the group had delivered copies of the Plan by hand to households, promoting reactions to it and asking people to pass on copies to their neighbours, always subject to social distancing. **Action: JC to check on consultation guidance during Covi-19 pandemic.**
 - b. **Social media:** Jerry Crossley reported that he had corrected misinformation and misleading gossip on my Next Door and would continue to do so. Graham Howland would remind people about the need to respond to the questionnaire.
Action: JCr & GH
6. **Responses to draft plan so far received**

Jane reported that she had received 25 completed questionnaires. There were several misunderstandings amongst the responses, mostly to do with people not wishing to see any development in the village at all. Such comments missed the point of the Plan being for the village to decide where and how any land should be developed, rather than risk having unsympathetic decisions foisted on the village by prospective developers. There was a risk that uninformed comments would skew informed villagers' wishes. This was despite so much effort going into regular engagement and publicity (including Egerton Update) and still not getting the views of non-responders who might well be passively supportive of the plan. This caused a feeling of despondency among the group. Some more focused comments related to the state of drainage and sewerage in the village. LT

explained what occurred when the site at Chantlers Meadow was chosen for local needs housing and the discussions that took place with Southern Water. It was agreed it was vital that any new housing should not worsen the situation and that it should provide an opportunity to explore other options such as an on-site pumping station. **Action: In due course LT to ensure these issues are well understood by any potential developer**

7. Possible flyer/reminder to all households

It was agreed that further extra effort should be made to remind and alert every household of the need to comment on the Plan by 10 July, with details of the website and a note that hard copies of the Plan were available in plastic boxes outside the Barrow House, The Rose and Crown and at Oliver's garage. **Action: JC to draft a flyer, for all to comment on; EG would check, report back and arrange delivery for the following week. GH would publicise this on social media on receipt from JC of a pdf copy.**

8. Orchard Nurseries site for older people's housing

It was agreed that the wording in the draft Plan was adequate in the current circumstances.

9. Revised timetable and next steps – It was agreed the timetable was subject to firm guidance on the consultation process. **Action: JC to check again with ABC, consultants and Locality**

10. AOB – barn conversions – JC and LT would discuss particular issues and report back

11. Date of next meeting: to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 6.15 pm