

MINUTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TASK AND FINISH GROUP

HELD AT THE OLD MINING COLLEGE CENTRE, QUEENS STREET ON FRIDAY 21ST JUNE 2019 COMMENCING AT 19.00

PRESENT

Councillor Steve Norman (in the chair)

Councillors Evans, Flanagan and Westwood

Mr Chamberlain, Mrs Fletcher, Mr Stanley and Mrs Taylor

IN ATTENDANCE

G Hunt Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Bacon, Birch, Banevicius and Loughborough Heron

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None received

3. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPGRADE

Councillor Norman introduced this item. He explained that following approval of the Appropriate Assessment by Natural England the Plan could now be submitted to Lichfield District Council. The District Council would then organise and manage the public consultation exercise for the plan.

He also said that he had contacted our consultants, Wellocks, yesterday and said that he wanted to add just a sentence to the introduction that explained – in plain English – that the Neighbourhood Plan had to comply with the District Local Plan and National Planning Guidance and so could not itself change the Green Belt boundary for example.

Mr Chamberlain asked why the meeting had been called. He was under the impression that Natural England had already given their approval and he saw no need to revisit the Plan.

Mr Hunt explained that the meeting had been called to explain the process that the Town Council had to follow to get to the point where it could submit the Plan to the District Council. Natural England's approval had only recently been received and he was keen that the Group was kept fully up to date. The report sent out with the agenda provided all of the

key dates prior to submission. There was no intention to re-visit the Plan. He also added that Mr Chamberlain had requested a meeting with the Town Council to discuss their vision for the town. Mr Hunt thought that in view of the representation on the Group it would be the appropriate place for the discussion to begin.

4. **OPPORTUNITIES TO COMPLEMENT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Following on from the discussion at the end of the previous item Mr Chamberlain introduced the Burntwood Action Group's (BAG) 'Plans for a Better Not Bigger Burntwood' which was circulated with the agenda. He expressed concerns that the current Local Plan was inadequate. It did not make the best of the opportunities on offer and failed to secure appropriate investment in the town's infrastructure to match its housing growth. He felt that in effect the town had lacked a coherent plan for the last 40 years. The Local Plan Review offered another chance to influence the Local Planning Authority. He was concerned that if we just sat back nothing would change.

Cllr Norman confirmed that everyone had the opportunity to respond to Review process and BAG had been involved from the start. He also said that local councillors, of all political parties, had been arguing these points for sometime and that there was a Town Strategy produced in 2011 for the Town Council, which he would send to members, that recognised these issues following public consultation with residents at the time.

Mr Hunt asked if BAG were suggesting a coordinated approach to the Review for Burntwood involving the Town Council, BAG and other local interests. Mr Chamberlain agreed that was his suggestion. Mr Hunt thought that the easiest way to facilitate joint working would be through the Neighbourhood Plan Task and Finish Group. The terms of reference of the group would need to be extended but the group's workload will be reduced until the results of the public consultation are known. Plus, many of the key stakeholders were already part of the group. Cllr Norman said that he would consult the Town Council Leadership Team about extending the remit of the Task and Finish Group. But the timing of group meetings would need to reflect the timescales of the Review process.

RESOLVED Cllr Norman to seek agreement on the proposed extension to the remit of the Task and Finish Group.

Mrs Taylor expressed concerns about the increased impact of new development. She was particularly concerned by the new KFC which she thought would add to the existing speeding and litter problems. She also felt that the continued expansion of fast food outlets was causing health problems. Mrs Fletcher did however acknowledge that the KFC would provide jobs and would show that Burntwood was thriving. Mr Hunt acknowledged Mrs Taylor's concerns but suggested that the Local and Neighbourhood Plans were not the best means of dealing with problems caused by a specific development(s). It would be far better to refer her concerns to the organisations responsible for the enforcement of the relevant regulations: in the case of speeding it would be Staffordshire County Council and for litter Lichfield district Council.

Mr Stanley then informed the Group of his experience in Walsall in respect of the successful economic regeneration that had been achieved. He asked if Lichfield District Council had anyone responsible for promoting the area and encouraging developers to invest in the area. Mr Hunt confirmed that both the District Council and Staffordshire County Council had

staff that worked on regeneration projects. He offered to arrange for a presentation to be given at a future meeting on the work of the two councils.

RESOLVED Mr Hunt to arrange a briefing on economic regeneration.

Mr Chamberlain made the Group aware that the next round of the Community Infrastructure Levy would be held in September. Burntwood did not have a lot of projects approved in the last round and currently had none ready for consideration in the September round. Cllr Evans added that that until the Neighbourhood Plan was adopted Burntwood the town would receive a lower rate of CIL funding.

Cllr Norman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(The meeting closed at 20.30)

Signed.....

Date.....