

Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Steering Group meeting Monday, 27th July at 2020 at 10.00am via Zoom

Present: Cllr S Kingdom (SK), Cllr I Capon (ICP), D Jury (DJ), Cllr C McCormack Hole (CMH) , Cllr I Crawford (ICR) and P Smith (PS) and Mrs K Graddock, Deputy Executive Officer (DEO)

Members introduced themselves as the Steering Group were informed that three new members had joined: Cllr I Capon, Mr M Steart (apologies) and Mr P Smith (CEWP).

Apologies

Apologies were received from Lorna Kimberley, Cllr A Rennles, M Steart and Cllr F Biederman.

Draft version of Neighbourhood Plan

SK explained that the NP process had been going on since 2015 and that the Steering Group had tried to engage with as many residents as possible. Devon Communities together were asked to hold consultations, but it was difficult to get people engaged. She further explained that the NP was written before Climate Emergency was taking place. She said that the NP should have been complete before now and she felt disappointed in the draft and that it needs to look more at the future.

DJ stated that he didn't understand why the draft NP went to Full Council without it being discussed by Steering Group and felt that it was very odd procedurally and that it needed to come to the Steering Group first who would have had the chance to challenge consultants to come back with something better. He felt there was lots of copy and pasting. He further explained that he wanted to be associated with this as it is an important document for the community and to have a report like that presented to Full Council before the steering group was not appropriate. CMH and SK agreed but explained that there was pressure from members to produce some kind of draft.

DJ mentioned the following comments:

- NP is not exciting and needs to communicate with lots of different types of people. He felt that having read the first couple of pages you were not engaged and that the content of the pre-ample is not inclusion – not broad enough and was purely focused on Heritage.
- The strapline is over 70 years old and perhaps not in the right context.
- No reference in the draft to Woodville and Bickleton and no mention of the stakeholders. He felt that there are so many stakeholders/community groups in the Parish and the only group mentioned is Fremington Quay Management Group, which is not being inclusive.
- No specific asset list, E.g; community assets, Tews Lane enhancement/extension, Tomlin Hall refurbishment, Scout Hut at Woodville.
- There is only one detailed objective and that is the rebuild of Fishleigh Quay, but the Steering Group has had many discussions which included bus stops, transport, cycle paths, Tarka Trail, community facilities (Yelland), improving Tomlin Hall, extending Tews Lane, protection for green spaces – SSSI.
- The young people during the consultations wanted safe play spaces – important asset to community, no mention of them or focus on them within the draft.

ICR mentioned the following comments:

- Very disappointed with the draft.
- Community Survey Report refers to so much information that's not included (that report is far more aspirational than the NP).
- The ND Public Transport Users Bus Shelter Report was not included but available to the steering group, it includes matters such as provision of bus shelters, transport and traffic issues
- There was a separate report based on the under 30 young people's group – not included in the community survey report and not mentioned in the NP.

ICP mentioned that the draft isn't going to shape the community until 2031 and it is clear that many of the information that was discussed by the original Steering Group has not been included.

KG confirmed that she requested that the following be included as all were aspirations mentioned over the past 12 months:

- Trim Trails
- Provision of additional allotments
- Extension/enhancement of Tews Lane
- Provision of Bus Shelters and additional street furniture
- Community Orchards

It was mentioned about a deadline of May 2021, as this was the earliest that the NP would be able to go to Referendum, however, ICP said that it would need to go to North Devon Council, be independently verified and can take up to 18 months for the Inspector to have a look at it. He also said that Great Torrington has recently had 181 houses allowed because it was challenged as it did not include areas where development could take place.

CMH mentioned the following comments:

- The Draft doesn't include Bickington, Yelland, Roundswell, Woodville as a growing concern and isn't fairly represented in the NP as part of Fremington.
- It is not just about Fremington.
- Tourism is important, there is a new business centre at Roundswell and the Cedars Hotel which bring in a lot of tourism and business – what will happen in the future?
- The Draft has a great detailed history of Fremington but no aspirations.

PS asked whether Fremington Parish Council has ever declared an Emergency? He was informed that if you mean what you say (not judgement but positively) that it should be referenced all throughout the document and that there are no excuses not to be aware of sustainability issues with transport, community etc. He suggested sending the Consultants the list that KG sent to the CEWP members and ask them to look at the CSE document in particular. <https://www.cse.org.uk/downloads/reports-and-publications/policy/planning/renewables/neighbourhood-planning-in-a-climate-emergency-feb-2020.pdf> He further explained that there is only one issue that threatens the community and the overriding issue is Climate Change and that there is likely to be significant flooding issues by 2031.

DJ mentioned that the draft plan does not reflect what the Steering Group have discussed and that the consultants did know about the Climate Emergency as this item was previously discussed in detail at meetings.

ICP suggested having task groups to look at each Policy section to identify work needs. DJ felt that task groups wouldn't work in this context and that the Steering Group as a collective needed to take this forward.

ICR reiterated his point about the Community Survey report and the younger generation report being ignored and it needed to be addressed.

ICP felt that the Steering Group needed a Chairman that would drive the NP forward. DJ said it should be the Steering Group that drives it through. KG & SK mentioned that Cllr Rennles has now resigned from the Steering Group. Members felt that there wasn't a need for a Chairman and that the open and flowing meeting with the Officer as facilitator worked well and encouraged more conversation and ideas.

ICP felt that an invitation should be extended to the Fremington Medical Centre, education authority and in particular Mr Cotton, who will be responsible for a number of educational settings. DJ & SK explained that the educational settings were spoken too and invited but only a small number were interested in going forward.

PS felt that other communities in the world fund facilities with renewable energy funding and community energy funds. As a parish council, we need to reinforce about being much more involved in the development of the parish including energy generation and look into community energy schemes, such as 361 Energy.

Next Steps

- KG to type up notes of today and circulate to attendees prior to sending to consultants.
- Once agreed, the notes from this meeting, along with comments from Mr M Steart and the Climate Emergency Working Party are sent to the consultants with an email saying that a meeting has been booked for 10.00am on Thursday, 13th August 2020 to discuss their plan of action to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan is robust and incorporates everything that has been identified now and previously.
- That going forward no Chairman is elected and an Officer facilitates the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meetings and ensures the Plan is on track and is the key liaison with the consultants.
- That KG send the links (in relation to Climate Change) previously circulated to members of the Steering Group to the Consultants for their perusal.
- That KG writes to Mr A Cotton to ask him to join the Steering Group/make comments.
- That KG writes to Fremington Medical Centre to ask them to join the Steering Group/make comments.

Meeting ended at 11.13am.