

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting 20th October 2021 11.30am

Present: Cllr Sue Kingdon, David Jury, Peter Smith, Rebecca Ward, Cllr Jim Bell, Cllr Helen Walker, Jude Wood (Administration & Projects Manager)

SK advised that she had managed to acquire a sum of money from Fremington Parish Council (subject to Full Council Agreement) to employ a consultant to carry the Neighbourhood Plan forward for submission to North Devon Council and the relevant Inspector. It is proposed we employ the consultant for 3 days and then us review it.

DJ commented that we only require some to help the Steering Group to complete the writing of the document and not to re-write/advise us or change the document. Help is needed to prepare the document for submission.

JW confirmed that the Consultant is aware that the document just needs 'padding out' and that word speak needs to be refined.

It was all agreed that Cllrs, Steering Group and Community do not want any further development within the district of Fremington.

DJ advised that it is not yet in the plan but it does need to be encapsulated what the Parish Council, there is also the point that we need to promote the likelihood of producing sustainable energy in Fremington. In the beginning it was agreed but is this still something that is still wanted and if so, it will need to be included. If so we need to come with areas where this could be.

PS one of the things that was pushed by North Devon Council representative was look at this centre for sustainable energy document and they show you how to purchase one. One of the things that said was; whether it was a wind turbine, solar panels etc you reserve areas, because once they've been used/built on they're no longer available for development. You're into a minefield of raising issues. if you read all the latest signs with the government, even them to support onshore generation, which they've blocked completely for the last five years or so. Something important to bear in mind is not letting areas that should potentially be reserved for generations to make ourselves more carbon neutral or less carbon demanding. How do we reflect that.

JA-H Felt the group was leaving themselves short with regards to renewable energy and carbon zero such are where they have listed renewable energy requirements - minimum requirement to power a 1000 homes, we should be looking at the maximum that we are currently able to produce, instead of going for minimum we should maximise what we already doing, there should more pressure put on developers to be built properly and carbon zero, our aspiration should be carbon zero and not as near as possible. if we don't aspire to carbon zero it will be difficult to get anywhere near it if we leave the door open.

DJ - this is one of the reasons why we need someone to help us write some of the 'word speak' in the document, and because some of it needs to be more succinct, but some of it cannot be. It may not be enforceable to say you can't do this because....it had to be changed to 'as near as possible' these plans don't work quite that way, that is suggested need to fit in the with Local Plan and NPPF.

JW – advised that once the NHP plan has been adopted there is a process in place whereby you review and make slight amendments once every 6 months or so then have a proper review one a year where you can to make a significant change and to keep the NHP inline with the Local Plan.

DJ – NDC argued that we should reduce our objectives because we wouldn't get enough money through 106 agreements to pay for them. PS - Some communities have identified sites for solar farms and have a Community benefit scheme/community share ownership set a maximum. DJ – Feels that as the Parish Council declared Climate Emergency, they should be seen to support this/doing something about it.

J A-H Advised that the partners of the medical centre are asking for a full consultation on the plan, not to change it but because they want it to be achievable.

SK – The plan needs to be finalised and not added to any more. It has taken a long time a lot of resource and a lot of money to get the plan where it is now and now is the time to get it finalised and on the table for submission. J A-H agreed with SK but suggested that we leave more room for updates on a regular basis.

Next steps:

Group agreed to have consultant review the plan over two days and see what he thinks needs doing.

Meet with Consultant to discuss what the group needs from him once he has looked over the plan.

Meeting finished at 12:50pm