



WMTC Neighborhood Planning Group

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2016

Councillors Present:-

Cllr Powling	Cllr Jenkins	Cllr Banks
Cllr Clements	Cllr Weaver	Cllr Bragg (Absent)
Cllr Moore (Absent)	Cllr Mullis	Cllr Wargent (Absent)

Attendees:

Sandra Howard, Chris Rust, David R Broise, Jay Stapley, David Cooper, Ben Woodcraft, John Dyson, Mel Burley, Chris Anglos, David J Robinson, Alan Brook, Robert Davies & Pat Moore (Councillors for Mersea & Pyefleet, Debbie Gooch (NHP Co-ordinator)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - none supplied as first open meeting
2. EAST MERSEA
Carl Powling mentioned that he had attended an East Mersea Parish Council Meeting and whilst they currently did not wish to be included in the WMTC NHP, he would keep them informed as any changes to the Highways and Transport would have affect them
3. CREATION AND LOGISTICS OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
Peter Banks and David Cooper both explained the part of process that needs to be adopted in order to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. They also showed the group the extensive government regulations and recommendations that needed to be followed.

CP stated that it would be as well to talk about the “elephants in the room” that he felt should be discussed and clarified before going forward:-

Construction of 350 houses over a 16 year period – it was unanimously agreed that the island itself could not support this amount of building. There had been much previous discussion in respect of the infrastructure, water quality, sewage, education, medical centre etc.

He went onto explain that whilst the island was against the construction of so many houses, that progress cannot be stopped but that the adoption of a well constructed Neighbourhood Plan with a scope of 20 years could ensure that only the number of houses that the island COULD support would be considered, that the type of housing could be shaped to fulfil the needs required and that there is was a substantial figure for the island per property constructed (25%). He also mentioned 51% island approval VOTE based on turnout on day etc etc

He also commented that the Neighbourhood Plan must be a positive document and that negativity may prevent the acceptance, and therefore adoption of the Plan itself.

Bradwell Power Station – much discussion ensued in respect of the plans for the Power Station moving forward, the possible employment of Island residents by the Power Station, evacuation procedure and the fact that the Power Station fell under the Maldon District Council and not Colchester, despite its position opposite the Island.

4. QUESTIONNAIRE/SURVEY FOR NHP

As part of the referendum required for NHP, Peter Clements spoke about the survey/questionnaire which was carried out for Village Appraisal 2008-09

The results of the Survey were published in the Village Appraisal 2008-09 and it was agreed between all of the attendees that the topics used in that Survey should be used to establish Working Party Groups to start towards the production of information for the NHP

The Village Survey 2008-09 :

- 1 Introduction
- 2 An historic perspective
- 3 Housing, Employment & Development
- 4 Health & Wellbeing
- 5 Safety & Crime
- 6 Transport, Traffic & Parking
- 7 Leisure & Cultural Activities
- 8 Environment, Parks & Open Spaces
- 9 Local Services & Communications
- 10 Action Plans

PC said that he would make the original survey available for review

The 2017 Survey for NHP must be formatted in such a way that it covers all aspects of the previous survey updated to suit the demands of a current Mersea and to cover the period up to 20 years from now

It must not be worded so that it does not "lead" the residents into a negative dialogue that may risk NHP document

5. TIMELINE FOR NHP

Carl explained that there are 3 District Centres within the Borough of Colchester - Mersea, Tiptree and Wivenhoe.

He also explained that Wivenhoe's Neighbourhood Plan is now at final draft stage ready for inspection to go to referendum for public approval.

He showed the Meeting the timeline that Wivenhoe had used in the production of their NHP and a realistic timeline was discussed for a NHP for Mersea

It was decided that the NHP for Mersea was to be ready for Inspector Review in Spring 2018

6. GUIDELINES FOR NHP

Carl further explained that Tiptree was in a similar position to Mersea in that they had just published their Survey.

He suggested that Mersea follow Wivenhoe's lead as their NHP was at final draft stage and that we follow Tiptree similarly.

7. WORKING PARTIES BY APPRAISAL SUBJECT

It was agreed that the Working Parties could be set up using the subject/themes as set up in the Appraisal 2008-09.

The group was asked if anyone would be prepared to undertake work in any of the subjects and the following stepped forward

Health & Wellbeing - Peter Clements

NHP – Peter Banks & David Cooper

Transport & Parking – Alan Brook & Peter Clements

Survey – Peter Clements & Alan Brook would look at updating the survey

Environment, Parks & Open Spaces – David Cooper

Village Centre – Alan Brook

Charles Clark – showed interest in "Maintaining the Village Uniqueness"

Demographics/Statistics/Residue – Debbie Gooch

Veronique Eckstein was asked if she would be able to help steer the Committee through the maze of the Governors & Education that would come under the Development aspect of number 3. Veronique agreed that she would help point us in the right direction

It was suggested that we approach Charles Clark (as he had already left the meeting) in respect of Infrastructure & Planning; Mark Dixon in respect of Coastal Protection and the Mersea Museum in respect of Heritage

MISA – in respect of Leisure & Cultural Activities

Demographics/Statistics/Residue – DG interested in that aspect

Jay Stapley, Editor of The Courier stated that he would be very happy to provide space for information to reach the residents of the Island about the Neighbourhood Plan.

Debbie Gooch mentioned that an online survey would require no entering of information

The meeting was brought to a close

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