



Ruishton and Thornfalcon Neighbourhood Plan Meeting of Project Team

Notes of meeting held on 25th September 2017

Present: Steering group members – Mike Marshall (MM), Jim Claydon (JCI), Doug Lowe (DL), Roy Bulgin (RB), Dave Duke (DD) and Catherine Faulkner (Neighbourhood Plan Administrator)

Other volunteers: Mike Hellings (MH), Stewart Thorne (ST), John Capstick (JCap), Bridget Dickinson (BD), Judy Cottrell (JCot), Susan Sherry (SS) and Andrew Lukes (AL)

1. Apologies

Ian Tucker (IT), Alex Sully (AS), Julia Curtis (JCu) and Jasmine Riches (JR)

2. Declarations of Interest

Jim Claydon declared a general interest as he is the Chair of CCS (Community Council for Somerset).

3. Notes of the last meeting

It was agreed that the notes of the last meeting were accurate.

- a) SS to send a list of needed material to the Administrator to circulate to the group – completed
- b) SS to send the information for the posters to the Administrator who would arrange the printing - completed
- c) Each Project Group should complete the topic paper for the next meeting of the Project Team. The Administrator to circulate the template by email so that it can be completed and returned to her prior to the next meeting of the Project Team – completed and on agenda
- d) The Administrator to resend the Air Pollution information to Sue Sherry - completed
- e) The Administrator to email the Project Team and Steering Group and remind them that if they work from home, or run businesses within the parish, to send the Administrator their preferred email address - completed
- f) DD to set up a group Dropbox address – Dropbox set up. AL, JCI, MM, JCap, MH, SS, BD and RB requested access to the Dropbox address. The Administrator advised that she will continue to attach documents to emails but will also put them in to Dropbox. Previously circulated documents will be added to Dropbox in due course. **Action:** DD to set up Dropbox access for AL, JCI, MM, JCap, MH, SS, BD and RB.

4. Information from Ann Rhodes, TDBC (previously circulated)

MM explained that Ann Rhodes has provided very helpful information for each topic group has said that we can ask for any further information we may need. JCI took everyone through key aspects of the information. He explained that there is some helpful guidance when considering what we might want to designate for future use ie green spaces, the pubs, cycle routes etc. It explains what can and cannot be included in

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a Neighbourhood Plan. It was considered that the MintUK database may be useful for accessing some data for the Business Survey and the Parish Council has been asked to register.

JCI explained that a consultation on new legislation came out last week in relation to ascertaining housing needs. This information is subsequent to the information from Ann Rhodes. It is now the District Council's responsibility for telling us our housing need either by making a reasoned judgement based on the settlement strategy and housing allocations in their local plan or applying a set formula. It appears that a Housing Needs survey is no longer needed. This will be discussed further by the Steering Group at their meeting next week.

JCI advised that the Steering Group had asked a local housing estate agent to talk to this group about local demand but he felt he was unable to do this. We may wish to ask an alternative estate agent to come and speak to the group in the future.

In relation to the Local Plan, he has been advised that the review has started but it is at a very early stage.

Something which may be of interest to the Parish Council is the Community Right to Bid which means if an asset comes up for sale, the local community has first option to buy it. If, through the Neighbourhood Plan, very important assets to the community are identified, the group could ask the Parish Council to consider this.

JCI also pointed everyone to the definitive settlement boundary maps which had been sent through by TDBC. These show the boundaries of the settlements which apply for planning purposes.

5. Topic Papers

JCI presented the Housing topic paper, which had previously been circulated, and advised that he had been able to use the Census and Household Survey to compile the information.

SS tabled and presented the Environment topic paper. SS explained that she will be using experts to take some of the areas in the topic paper forward, especially identifying any endangered species. She has spoken to the Botany Group who will help find the Black Poplar trees in our Parishes which are very rare. She explained that there are no designated conservations areas in either Parish except a small piece of Henlade Woods. She added that Fishpool Copse needs to be explored further.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Dormouse boxes) has been started by Highways England (HE) in Henlade Woods and is also all along the A358 from junction 25 to the Southfields Roundabout.

SS added that the air pollution figures are very interesting and may be useful going forwards.

(JCap joined the meeting at 7.45pm)

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BD presented the Community topic paper which had previously been circulated. BD explained that they may need more clarification on usage levels of the Village Hall and churches as this was not clear from the Household Survey as it did not ask how often these were used.

AL presented the Heritage topic paper. He explained that a lot of information has been collated and needs clarification of how much information we need in the Neighbourhood Plan. There was a discussion about Thornfalcon being a conservation area but that there is no appraisal. AL said that, going forwards, he will consider this and what it means. **Action:** AL to consider the conservation area in Thornfalcon and the lack of appraisal and advise the Project Team in due course.

The policy of no development on historic railway and canal lines was discussed including could these be used as potential footpaths and what could be the future of them? The Project Team was informed that the Parish Council had commented on West Monkton's Neighbourhood Plan which is currently in for review. It had commented that we would like the idea of a footpath/cycle path from Ruishton to Hankridge to be supported in their Neighbourhood Plan.

In relation to the Business topic paper, it is necessary for the Business Survey to be undertaken next. This will be discussed at the Steering Group meeting next week but it is necessary to finalise the business information first and it is hoped that using MintUK along with the information already provided, will provide a definitive list of businesses in the parishes.

The Administrator advised that, under Education, the Primary School survey had been analysed and the findings reflected many of the findings in the Household Survey and the topic papers. Speeding traffic was felt to be an issue along with litter. External areas for sports was a preference and a pop-up café had been suggested.

A discussion was had as to when we can start identifying key themes and review the project time line. It was advised that due to the uncertainty of the A358 that it may not be a possibility at present.

6. Updates on:

A358 – It had been reported at the last meeting that the HE consultation process had not yet been completed. However, it has now been decided by HE to consult on at least two routes not just one. This means that there is another consultation process starting early November for 6 weeks. On 15th November 2017, there will be an exhibition followed by Q&A in the Village Hall.

Nexus 25 – TDBC are not happy that there is no connecting road to the A358 bypass. In addition, this project was due to go to TDBC Scrutiny Committee in September 2017 but as they had not completed a transport assessment for SCC to consider it did not go. It will go to Scrutiny Committee at a future date.

Junction 25 – HE put in an objection to this scheme because they want more traffic information. It is not known when that will go to SCC's Regulation Committee for approval.

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It was noted that HE, SCC and TDBC were due to meet on 12th September 2017 to discuss all three projects. The outcome of this meeting is not known.

7. Project Plan review

The Administrator advised that 3 key tasks had now been completed; Village day, Household Survey and Youth/School Surveys. All other areas of the Project Plan are on target. It is questionable whether the pre-consultation date can be brought forward due to the work required beforehand and the unknowns such as the roads.

A discussion was held regarding engaging with our Deane Councillors. **Action:** The Administrator to email both Deane Councillors and our County Councillor sending them information from our Household Survey to keep them informed and ask what input they would like to give to our Neighbourhood Plan.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting, which will be before the end of December, will be set by the Steering Group at their meeting on Monday 2nd October 2017.

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