

TOLLESBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

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Notes of the first meeting of Tollesbury Neighbourhood Plan Committee held on Wednesday 9th November 2016 commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Matthew Byatt (MB), David Hillyer (DH), Roger Lankester (RL), Simon Lewington (SL) Gail Norton (GN), Sue Plamer (SP), Simon Plater (Chairman), Claire Slodzik (CS) and Steve Slodzik (SS) and Andrew St Joseph (ASJ)

Admin: Michelle Curtis (MC)

Matthew Byatt, Simon Plater, Steve O'Donnell, Claire Slodzik and Stevan Slodzik are members of Tollesbury Parish Council.

Andrew St Joseph is a District Councillor – Maldon District Council.

The meeting opened at 7.30pm.

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Steve Smith.

2. Public Forum

There were 12 members of the public present and District Councillors Bamford and Thompson.

Mr Butt spoke on behalf of the Tollesbury Wildfowlers. Mr Butt explained that it is understood that a marine assets list had been produced which included areas of land, which are owned, by individuals and organisations. Whilst the list may have been produced with good intentions, it has upset a number of landowners, as they were not consulted.

The Chairman advised that RL has a marine interest and agreed to carry out research for the marine interface. RL has looked at a number of assets, which could be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. The list has been drawn up and will be debated.

Mr Butt suggested better communication with the groups/organisation who this may affect.

Mr Bowers, resident of West Street, stated that he was aware that a proposal had been put forward by Mr Scott for the land behind West Street and would like to know how far the Committee had got with discussions for this development.

The Chairman gave an overview of the progress made to date with the Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman explained that following the village workshop, the preferred area for any development from residents was to the west end of the village. At this stage, no decision had been made as to which side of West Street any development should go. Further assessments i.e. landscape assessments will need to be carried out before any decision is made.

Cllr Bamford stated that Maldon District Council (MDC) was currently looking at rural allocation and it is unlikely that more than 50 houses will be allocated for Tollesbury.

Cllr Thompson advised that the rural allocation would be a separate document to the Local Development Plan (LDP). MDC are also having difficulty obtaining information from Government.

3. Neighbourhood Plan

a) Housing

The Chairman advised that a further meeting had been arranged with Sarah Sapsford, Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE), to discuss the Housing Needs Survey.

The Housing Needs Survey is an important document and will help identify the actual need of the village. It is important that residents complete and return the document.

b) Proposal from Mr Butt

The proposal for a development of 30 properties on the land owned by Mr Butt was received.

Action: MC to include plan on the Parish Council website.

Mr Butcher raised concern that any development on land owned by Mr Butt would have issues with access.

It was suggested that the Heddinghams bus depot was an ideal site for developers. MC advised that she had already written to Heddinghams to ask what their plans were for the site.

Action: MC to chase up.

The Chairman stated that there has been no decision made on any preferred site. The Committee is neutral and at this stage is collecting information and will make some form of recommendation.

MB stated that it is important that we try to have some controlled growth.

The Chairman advised that MDC are currently promoting leisure in the district, Woodup Pool had a very busy season and Tollesbury is not also a hub for the coastal footpath.

The Chairman advised that he would be arranging a meeting with Jamie Baxter, the Consultants, to start putting together some outline policies.

c) Meeting with Maldon District Council

The Chairman advised that the on 25th October 2016, District Councillors, the Clerk and himself had met with Leonie Alpin and Adrian Tofts, Planning Policy Officers at Maldon District Council.

A copy of the notes from the meeting had been distributed to members.

At the meeting it was reported that Anglian Water was carrying out an assessment of their assets and the report would be available within the next month.

The Chairman advised that the Committee would like to continue dialogue with the Officers and had invited them to visit to Tollesbury.

d) Marine Assets

The Chairman stated RL had put together a draft list of marine assets. The Chairman explained that with regards to the marine interface, some bigger strategic decisions needs to be made i.e. protection, access.

It was decided that rather than have a list individual marine assets, it was looked at as one asset as a whole identified as The Harbour (including the deep water channel, mud flats) which would be an umbrella for all the smaller assets.

DH advised that the area where the Wildfowlers shoot is diminishing and it is important the Wildfowlers are included in this discussion.

ASJ stated it is important that we find a way to protect such areas.

The Chairman stated that he would speak to Jamie and look for information to form into policy.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee would be held on Wednesday 25th January 2017 commencing at 7.30pm.

The Clerk advised that the RCCE were holding a Neighbourhood Planning coffee morning on Wednesday 16th November 2016 at Felsted Memorial Hall. Committee members were invited to attend. MB and SL agreed to attend.

MB suggested that National Policy Issues are included on the next agenda for discussion (Bradwell Power Station).

DH suggested that something is included in the Parish Magazine giving and update and advising residents that documents are available to view on the Parish Council website.

Action: MC to arrange.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.