

Neighbourhood Plan Meeting 26th January 2021 – informal meeting

Present: Cllrs: Davis (RD), Brown (CB), Field (KF), Talbot (MT) & Hakewill (JH), Julia Baish (JB) - (KBC Officer), Philippa Page (PP) - (Town Clerk) Apologies: Cllrs Jelley & Sumpter

- JB gave a brief resume of her involvement with the Rothwell Neighbourhood Plan since the commencement of the process. Two consultations had taken place, draft document had been produced (no electronic copy available). In previous years work had recommenced and then stopped.
- Decision to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan is that of Council and what is hoped that the NHP would be achieved.
- In terms of costs, funding is available through Locality.
- Locality has produced a NHP road map guide within this is a work sheet as to why you would want to prepare a NHP.
- Town/Parish Councils that have proceeded with a NHP have employed specialised consultants to assist with the plan, which can take some of the pressure away from Council.
- Need to be aware of current policies that are in place such as the Strategic Plan which is the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy which sets out overriding policies in the area together with (KBC) Site Specific Part 2 Plan.
- A Neighbourhood Plan would need to conform with strategic policy.
- JB will provide us with details of funding, and a list of Town/ Parishes currently working on a NHP and the other related documents.
- A NHP once it is made forms part of the development plan and the key document in forming decisions on planning applications, shaping development.
- Parish Plan is more of an aspirational document. (not as formal).
- NHP once made needs to be reviewed every 5 years.
- JH gave a brief resume on the Broughton Parish Council NHP and his involvement in which he provided linkage between Broughton & KBC and attended all Broughton PC consultation events in his role as Borough Councillor.
- MT suggested KF get in touch with the Towns/Parishes who have NHP under way.
- JB – the recent Planning White Paper consultation, the outcome is not yet known and JB will provide a link to the proposed changes. Until the outcome is known it is unclear how these changes will affect a NHP.
- KF – may be prudent to wait until the changes and how will they affect a NHP are known.
- JB – There will be a review of the Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy later in 2021.
- CB – what potential costs would be involved in employing a consultant – JB it would depend on the work involved.
- PP – grants from Locality are available for up to £10K according to their website.
- MT – Members of the public who are interested and have certain skill set are often involved in the NHP process in working parties/steering groups and then report back to Council for formal decisions.
- JH – If the White Paper Consultation was endured in its current state what impact would that have on existing NHP. JB – was not involved in the formal response given by KBC but her brief understanding was that there were concerns in the ability of communities to influence planning decisions. In terms of NHP it is the intention of the Government that they would still be part of the planning system. At a recent KBC Planning Policy meeting there was a report with the implications, JB will forward details.
- MT – in Rothwell there are areas of Conservation Areas.
- JH – with the changes in the Planning White Paper the opportunity to shape the future has now gone.
- KF – maybe too late, no point in going back – we need to move forward.
- JH – massive similarities between Desborough & Rothwell Town Council, there is the potential to make a joint NHP recognising the A6 and the development coming in. Because things happening in Desborough South will affect Rothwell and Rothwell North will affect Desborough. Often Councils join together where they have a community of interest, taking this forward it needs to be driven by the Town Councillors, a joint NHP would share the cost between the two. Could have a single Town Council combining Rothwell and Desborough.
- JB- Planning is about the future, there is still the opportunity to shape the future growth. Plans are renewed frequently.