

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF THE THURLESTONE PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Held in the Yeo Room of the Parish Hall on 19 October 2016 at 2pm.

Present: Tony Goddard (Chairman) (AG), Sue Crowther (SC), Kit Marshall (KM), David Martin (DM), Robin MacDonald (RM), Judy Pearce (JP) Chris White (CW).

1. **Apologies:** Peter Hurrell (PH), Gary Luddington (GL), Charlie Mitchelmore (CM), Jill Munn (JM).

2. **Feedback from Local Economy Focus Group meeting held on 18 October**
Over 30 people attended. GL (leader of the Economy Working Group) gave a presentation supported by slides about the Economy Working Group objectives and draft policies that had emerged from the results of the Parish Questionnaire. Questions were then invited from the meeting that were answered by a panel consisting of AG, JP and SC. Aside from plenty of discussion about the neighbourhood plan process, the Questionnaire, publicity and confidential information, the feedback obtained in respect of the local economy draft policies was instructive and included the following:
 - Local businesses trying to expand are finding they cannot get people to work for them because of the lack of housing in the parish that they can afford.
 - The external environment is moving very fast. The neighbourhood plan may be setting things in stone and not be flexible enough for the future, so that opportunities for investment will be lost. The plan needs to be kept under review.
 - Local businesses, e.g. shops and restaurants, need customers and visitors are important in supporting such businesses. We may need a boutique hotel in the future.
 - There should be flexibility regarding the expansion of existing camping and caravan sites that can produce a lot of income. *'Glamping' [defined as a form of camping involving accommodation and facilities more luxurious than those associated with traditional camping]* is fashionable and may bring in more and younger visitors. B & B is a thing of the past.

The format of the upcoming Housing Focus Group meeting on 1 November was also discussed briefly. The recent South Hams workshop's 'speed-dating' table idea was dismissed because there were likely to be too many attendees and not enough

expertise to facilitate the number of tables that may be required. SC and JP to discuss the way the evening should run.

3. Working Group updates:

- **DAAT helipad:** RM has spoken to the Golf Club and Hotel and written to the Bantham Estate. It appears that Geoffrey Stidston has given agreement in principle to Toby Russell (TR) of DAAT that the top field (marquee field) in Thurlestone may be available. RM will tour the sites with TR to evaluate them.
- **County Wildlife sites:** JP has investigated the legal position regarding the sites, including Thurlestone Marsh. There is no legislative back up to enforce the condition of the sites and this would remain unchanged. She has consulted the South Devon AONB Unit about funding which apparently is scarce at the moment from any of the formerly available sources such as DEFRA, Natural England etc. Evidence has been collected which shows that bird visits, including a number of protected species, have fallen off dramatically since the Marsh has been drained. When the Golf Club repaired the culvert, a sluice gate recommended by the consultant engineer was never installed and as planning permission was retrospective, the application only covered what had been done. With no sluice gate it is impossible to hold back any water, so the area now drains freely all the time leading to the decline in bird visits.
- **Community Wifi and heating projects:** CW has established that the Wifi 'Cloud' system used in parts of the Dartmoor National Park is part of Sky and is only supplied to companies. It was suggested that the Bantham Estate might be approached if it appeared feasible. As to the community heating project, CW said that even with residents' support for the project, we are only obliged to research the feasibility. CW judged the words in the Regulation 19 consultation draft of the West Devon Our Plan to be ideal in this respect. These words are likely to be carried forward into the new Plymouth and SW Devon Joint Local Plan for the Thriving Towns and Villages section.
- **Non-designated Heritage Assets:** KM pointed out that the pill box on Leasfoot beach is in fact in South Milton parish, but that there is another one in Bantham. There was a discussion about the resources to maintain the items on the list and whether the Parish Council is ultimately responsible, or whether a new group to take care of the sites should be formed. The bus shelter and pump house were the main examples requiring frequent maintenance. The old ship's cannon by the 'phone box in Thurlestone, which was not included in the Questionnaire list, was also mentioned.
- **Housing:** SC said she had attended the St Ives judicial review hearing in Bristol concerning second homes. The claim focused on breach of

Article 8 of the European Human Rights Convention i.e. interference with a person's property rights by limiting occupancy of their home to principal residency. The judgment is not due for a few weeks. A check was being made of the number of families now on the Devon Home Choice housing register. The Plymouth and SW Devon JLP village sustainability and target figures were still awaited from the district council following their consultation.

4. **JLP timetable:** JP reported that for the first time the JLP adoption date had slipped into 2018. This was due to an extra consultation session being necessary on the extra sites required in the JLP for various reasons mostly connected with maintaining a five-year land supply throughout at least the first five years. This would mean that the three Councils would not be in a position to approve the Regulation 19 consultation before February 2017, with consultation taking place in March and April, and submission to the Planning Inspectorate in May 2017. From this point on, the Councils have no control over the timetable, which then rests with the Inspectorate. The public Examination would be unlikely before September 2017 at the earliest, and with a period for the final Report and subsequent approval procedures, adoption had slipped from Autumn 2017 to early 2018.

5. **Project Plan:** SC reported that the draft NP would not be available before the end of February 2017 earliest. GL was working on a draft outline for the Economy section and once the Housing Focus Group meeting had taken place, drafting could begin in earnest. SC was keeping tabs on the HIRE subjects where further research was currently taking place.

6. **AOB:** DM confirmed that the funding position was up to date. Members were asked to submit any expenses direct to the Parish Council but ensure DM and SC are copied in. KM reminded us that there were elements of evidence which needed updating, e.g. the school.

7. **Dates of future meetings:** The next two meetings will be held on:
 - Wednesday 9 November 2016, 2-4pm
 - Wednesday 7 December 2016, 2-4pm