

Notes on Neighbourhood Plan Meeting held at Norton in Hales Village Hall on 15th December 2017

Present: Eddie West, Senior Planning Policy Officer and Nick Fisher, Enablement Officer – Shropshire Council

Cllrs John Cadwallader and Paul Wynn – Unitary Cllrs for Norton in Hales, Adderley and Moreton Say

Cllrs Peter Eardley, Margaret Edwards, Neil Groom and Karen Cliff – Norton in Hales Parish Council

Cllrs Marius Coulon, Paul Nash and Roy Tydeman – Adderley Parish Council (Cllr Tydeman also on Norton in Hales Parish Council)

Cllr Melanie Joyce – Moreton Say Parish Council

Jane Evans – Clerk to Adderley and Moreton Say Parish Council, taking notes

Apologies: Cllrs Dutton and Shaw – Moreton Say Parish Council

Cllr Eardley chaired the meeting, explaining that it was a meeting of representatives of the three Parish Councils who were looking to do a joint Neighbourhood Plan, everyone introduced themselves.

Cllr Nash had prepared a draft agenda which was distributed.

Cllr Nash gave feedback from a Locality Meeting that he had attended in Macclesfield, highlighted the contacts within Shropshire that can be referred to, Parish Councils that have done or are doing their own Neighbourhood Plan, and a Resource Bank of Information which Cllr Nash will put on the Adderley Parish website for anyone to view. At the Locality Meeting it had been stressed that each Parish Council (s) needed to do as much of the work themselves as a sizable amount of the grant available will be required towards the end of the actual plan. Also it was stressed about the importance of community involvement to get everyone as engaged as possible for the Neighbourhood Plan to have real benefit and meaning.

Cllr Nash showed the meeting maps of the area with the boundaries of the three Parish Councils plotted on, this shows a very large area but within this area not a very large population density. Cllr Nash explained that to start the process it had to be decided exactly what area would be in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Mr West explained that within the SAMDev, which Shropshire Council adopted last year, Adderley Parish was identified as a hub, Moreton Say as a Community Cluster and Norton in Hales was mostly countryside. He went on to say that he would not advise including the entire area of the three Parishes in the Neighbourhood Plan. From various comments around the table it seems that the general feeling was that the Neighbourhood Plan should include the entire area as the Parish Councils represented the parish not just the villages.

Mr West advised the meeting that Shropshire Council would support any Town or Parish Council (s) who wanted to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan but Councils need to ask themselves why they wanted to undertake this project, what were the objectives? What did they want to get out of it? A discussion took place where various Parish Councillors advised the meeting that they wanted to have more control of their own destiny, they had seen insensitive planning decisions made in their parishes and felt let down by Shropshire Council Planners and Cllr Nash concluded that a Neighbourhood Plan gives the fine detail rather than general terms.

Mr West explained the way the planning system worked with regard to the five year land supply and how a Neighbourhood Plan would not give any protection against development if Shropshire Council dipped below this figure, effectively if Shropshire Council needed development land in Shropshire and it was under the stipulation of the five year land supply then development areas would be granted regardless of any Neighbourhood Plans that may be in place.

A discussion took place regarding the Planning Review which is due to start with the result of identifying more land for development and compiling a new SAMDev which would go through to 2028, this new plan would not have as much detail as the existing adopted policy.

Market Drayton's Neighbourhood Plan was discussed and Cllr Eardley expressed the view of the Parish Councillors present that they felt that on three occasions they had been either misled or misrepresented by the Steering Group that was formulating the M D Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Councils no longer trusted the steering group or Market Drayton Town Council, which the steering group were working on behalf of, and that is why they had objected, in a formal response, to their Neighbourhood Plan in the consultation process.

Mr West advised the meeting that he realised that there had been some challenges in the communications between the steering group and the Parish Councils and also some of the process been handled poorly and there was room for improvement but he stressed that Shropshire Council want to see a resolution regarding this situation.

Cllr Joyce made the point that as the Parish Councils had made their decisions regarding their formal response in a meeting then there has to be six months before this decision can be reviewed in the Parish Councils.

A further discussion took place regarding the M D Neighbourhood Plan with regard to the two key areas, the marina within the Norton in Hales boundary and the sports facility within the Morton Say boundary. Cllr Wynn asked what pros and cons there was regarding the M D Neighbourhood Plan with regard to any C I L monies, this was discussed.

Mr West asked the meeting if there were any fundamental issues that the Parish Council's had with the M D Neighbourhood Plan or was it a process issue. He asked if it would be possible for the steering group to meet the Parish Councils to find a way forward. The general feeling around the table was that at present with the lack of trust that the Parish Councils had in the M D Neighbourhood Plan and Market Drayton Town Council this was not possible but it was decided to have a further meeting in January to discuss the matter further and after reflection.

Jane Evans will liaise with everyone as to the date and venue of the meeting in January.