

NOTES OF MEETING OF NEWTON AND BIGGIN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NBNPAC).

Thursday 9th November 2023, Newton Village Hall.

1. Welcomes and apologies

Present:

Ian Davis, Rebecca Barry, Andy Newnham, Anne Davis, Matt Warner, Gary Kirk, Sarah Sturdee, Glen Langham

Apologies:

Gordon Coates, Rick Crane, Bob Threadgold, Chris Wildig, Kamel Mehta, Dean Welburn, Jane Morgan, Ben Wyan

2. Declaration of Interest.

All residents of the Parish have an interest in the Plan. Glen Langham as an employee of AC Lloyd has an interest in Coton East.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 25 September

a) Accuracy

It was noted that under 'Draft Programme' in the notes, it has been incorrectly referenced that RBC had designated 'The Plan', and this should read 'The Neighbourhood Area'.

b) Matters Arising

a. Land ownership

Sarah and Glen updated that they were $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the work. Sarah will collate the information into a suitable format for the next meeting.

b. History of the parish

No update. This will be reviewed at the next meeting. The history will provide context and needs only to be a page / page and a half.

4. Funding.

Application submitted and successful. £10,000 awarded (from £18,000 total). The funds are only available until April and any surplus would need to be returned.

A virtual meeting was held with AECOM, who will be providing technical support, the first item of which will be a Design Code to be applied to all new development. This won't be just a single set of guidance, rather there will be guidance appropriate to different character areas within the Plan. AECOM will be visiting to undertake a design assessment. As far as Coton East is concerned any Design Code must be complementary to the existing Master Plan.

Subject to the funding being available it is also intended to engage AECOM to assist with a Housing Needs Survey.

5. Vision Statement.

Draft Vision Statement from Rick was reviewed and well received at the meeting. It was suggested that there should be an addition of 'employment' and 'sustainability'.

An open event will be considered in the Spring (ideally on a Saturday) to ask residents for their opinion on the Vision Statement. The statement can evolve. It was also suggested that the narrative could perhaps be aligned with the Local Plan e.g. environmental / prosperity etc. (A copy of the draft is attached to the email accompanying these notes.)

6. **Questionnaire.**

Anne circulated examples of questionnaires to the agreed group but did not receive much feedback. The questionnaire should take 2 to 3 months to complete, and the preferred format is Survey Monkey (online) with paper copies by exception. Gary Kirk will set up an electronic copy once finalised, and Andy Newnham will support with Survey Monkey.

7. **Next Steps Discussion**

Not applicable.

Local Plan

A brief update was given around the RBC consultation on a new Local Plan. There is a significant employment land shortfall, which the Local Plan will need to address. RBC hasn't yet determined how many new houses will be required. One estimation is zero which seems unrealistic but whilst growth may be less than in previous plans it's still likely to be something up to 8,000. A general election will be held within the next 12 months and depending on which Party forms a government there are likely to be major changes to the planning system designed to make it easier to develop. A Neighbourhood Plan must align with the Local Plan.

8. **Scoping Exercise**

This will be reviewed at the next meeting with more attendees.

9. **Skills Audit of Members.**

This will be completed to highlight the talent / skills within the group. Gary Kirk will look for a suitable template and send out.

Date of future meeting (s)

The next meeting will be at 7pm on Thursday 11th January in the Village Hall.