**Neighbourhood Plan Progress Report – PC Meeting 11 April 2017**

1. **Several strands of work have been in progress during the course of the past four weeks**
   1. The website has been released
   2. The Environment report has been updated and completed and placed on the website
   3. We have finally received the heritage assets data held by the Historic Environment Service at NCC. These have been processed and the spatial data has been input to our GIS.
   4. We have received sampling kits from the Freshwater Habitats Trust. These will be used to collect some basic background data on the Hun and local ponds before the full water quality tests are carried out by UCL. A trial run in the area close Redwell Marsh Bridge following a dry spell indicates good results for phosphates, but poor results for nitrate pollution. The outcome of these tests will influence whether we want to have a “Hun Policy” or Action Plan.
   5. We are getting down to some basic policy drafting, starting with some of those that are simpler to tackle. Related to this, we have contacted the BC Planning Policy Team regarding ideas about defining Character Areas for the Parish. The Borough is planning to re-introduce boundaries for all villages in the next version of the Local Plan (currently under review) and have suggested that we should come forward with some proposals as the basis for a policy that which we could agree. We are reviewing ideas with Bob Bowman.
   6. Meanwhile we have asked our town planning consultant to advise us on an appropriate employment / retail policy for Drove and he is drafting something for us to consider.
2. **Meetings**
   1. Meetings with local landowners have continued to discuss their aspirations and to explore the possibilities of support for our NDP policies – including suggestions put forward by consultees, notably the possible extension of the footpath network.
   2. We held a very productive meeting with Andrew Jamieson of Drove Orchards and exchanged suggestions for policies and projects that could be incorporated into the Plan. He has offered to help with contacts and contributed some thinking to some of the suggestions we had from the consultations – notably wrt an Environment / Visitor Centre.
   3. We have had a further meeting with the NCP, attended by Gemma Clark an Environmental Planner who has taken over some of the work of Tim Venes (now retired). We hope to continue Margaret Easton’s cooperation with NCP, working closely on policy development and they have asked if we would contribute to an NDP event they want to organise.
3. **Funding**
   1. We have put together the basis for a second application for funding the next stage of work which will be focused on developing the policy options and another round of consultations. This is for just over £4000 and together with the funding received so far will take us up to the maximum of £9000. The funding for the Hun water quality tests is coming from a separate pot via the NRT. Christina will submit the application to Groundwork / DCLG following her return from holiday in early May. Having her help is great!