

Neighbourhood Plan Progress Report – PC Meeting 13 June 2017

Work in progress during the course of the past four weeks

1. We have continued to develop the zoning system which we want to use as the basis for setting out future land uses in the Neighbourhood Plan. Following a meeting with our Planning Consultant at the beginning of the month, we discussed some revisions to the more sensitive areas around Broadwater and Beach Road and we subsequently contacted the BCKL&WN to clarify the significance of flood risk vulnerability to our classification. As part of the Local Plan update however, the Borough is currently revising its own approach to Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and the outcome of this will not be known before the autumn. We are therefore consulting the Environment Agency to clarify our options and we are awaiting confirmation of a meeting later this week.
2. We are continuing to work on the development of policy options to address some of the problems and issues that have come out of the data analysis. We are working through these, reviewing what other NDP's have proposed and looking at Inspector's Examination Reports to try and understand why some approaches are more successful than others. With help from Richard High we now have our first detailed employment policy which deals with the rural exception site at Drove Orchards.
3. On Friday we will be having a meeting with the Planning Officer at the Regional Office of Natural England where we will be discussing green policies including our approach to identifying a new amenity and biodiversity area to compensate for the large part of the Parish likely to be affected by the Shoreline Management Plan. We will also be discussing the possibility of designating Local Open Spaces on part of the land owned by the Parish Council.
4. Work on water quality testing started last week with support from Ursula Juta from the Norfolk Rivers Trust. Samples were taken from 4 locations on The Hun, plus Broadwater Lagoon, where Gary Hibberd from the NWT joined us. These were sent for analysis to the EA's labs at Exeter and the first set of results has just been delivered. Monitoring will continue on a monthly basis until the end of the year to make sure a representative range of conditions is captured – but we hope to have sufficient evidence for a water quality policy well before then.
5. We hope to have a meeting to discuss our approach to housing (both new and replacement dwellings) with the BC Housing Officer in the near future. Once this has happened we can arrange a meeting with the Borough's Policy Team to get their views on our policies before going out to consultation.
6. We have been asked to give a short talk at the NCP's Annual Conference about our experience with developing a NDP.
7. Finally, we have submitted a further application for grant funding of c£4.5k. We hope to know the outcome of this by the end of the week. Although the rules are much more stringent than previously, we see no reason why the money should not be forthcoming but we would like to ask the Parish Council to underwrite this level of costs (largely the costs of professional town planning support and costs related to further consultation).