

Neighbourhood Plan Progress Report – PC Meeting 18 July 2017

Work in progress during the course of the past four weeks

1. Work on policy development and consultation with the statutory consultees is continuing and we have completed a map of proposed land use zones to be used for Development Control.
2. We reviewed the zoning system at a recent meeting with the Borough's Planning Policy Team and they were generally in favour of our proposals but have suggested a number of changes to the draft development boundary (as Holme will have its own NDP this is something the NP Team has been invited to propose for adoption in the new Local Plan).
3. In June, we met with Natural England's Sustainable Development Group who were very supportive of our overall proposals for the NDP. In particular they responded enthusiastically to the idea of identifying a zone to compensate for the likely longer term loss of amenity and biodiversity as a result of climate and coastal change in the Parish. A member of their Landscape and Natural Capital Team has subsequently made contact with a view to discussing how this could be taken forward to mesh with their own broader plans for the area.
4. Whilst our work has been proceeding the BCKL&WN have been processing the results of a call for development sites across the Borough. The response includes two sites which are being promoted for allocation in Holme.
 - Because our Parish will have its own Neighbourhood Plan we have been offered the opportunity of carrying out the site screening and sustainability analysis for these and any other proposals that have come forward.
 - This needs to be a fair and transparent process and we have been given the standard methodologies to be used for this purpose.
 - Once reviewed we plan to carry out a consultation - clearly this is a very important process as it enables the Parish to express THEIR views on "if and where" different types of future development should be located between now and 2036.
5. Christina has been in touch with various landowners with a view to progressing proposals for the expansion of the footpath network – but to date the response has been disappointing. A recent proposal received from Thornham Parish Council is suggesting a collaborative project which may help with this.
6. We have now received results from the Environment Agency for water quality testing carried out at five sites during June and July. The pattern from these early results plus photographic evidence points to a number of areas where there is evidence of pollution and deteriorating water quality, both in the River and in Broadwater. This situation needs to be addressed and this work will provide evidence in support of a drainage policy in the NDP.
7. We gave a short talk at the NCP's Annual Conference about our experience with developing the NDP. This was well received and we have had some very positive feedback and made useful contacts as a result. Copies of the presentation will be placed on the NDP and NCP websites.
8. Finally, our second application for grant funding of c£4.2k was successful and covers our work to the end of the year.
9. In terms of timetable – we are about 8-10 weeks behind schedule. This is because Holme is a unique Parish and some unexpected and exceptional issues have been raised – eg the Shoreline Management Plan, issues surrounding the National Nature Reserve and Water Quality - and we have taken the opportunity to propose a development boundary which would otherwise be defined through the Local Plan Review. However, it is better to face these now and we are getting some positive input from the statutory consultees which should stand us in good stead when the plan goes out to formal consultation.