

Neighbourhood Plan Progress Report – PC Meeting 05 September 2017

Work in progress during the course of the past six weeks

1. Following our meeting with the Borough's Planning Policy Team in July we have produced a revised copy of the proposed land use zoning together with a detailed document explaining and justifying the basis for each of the zones. The changes reflect the Policy Team's comments and suggestions and include revisions to the draft development boundary. This has been a substantial task and was resubmitted to the BC for comment on 11 August. They have asked for time to prepare a considered response following which we will be invited to a meeting to discuss.
2. We have also received a large number of comments from the Planning Policy Team on the draft retail / employment policy for Drove which our consultant Richard High has produced. Richard is following up the points before finalising the draft.
3. The BC have also commented on the presentational style adopted for policies and in response we have produced a 'style template' which we will use as the standard for presenting all of our policies in future and this has been tested on a Local Green Spaces Policy.
4. Towards the end of the July we met with the Borough's Housing Strategy Team to discuss their approach to the assessment of need for new homes in the Parish. We also discussed their views on a variety of housing policies including principal homes ownership and replacement dwellings and got some clarity on affordable housing requirements and eligibility. The housing team have not looked at Holme in any detail and were not able to give us a steer on numbers. Following the meeting however, they have supplied us with output from a new parish profiling tool that they are developing. This has allowed us to compare their analysis of underlying change in the socio-economic profile of the Parish with the analysis we did last year using Census and other ONS data sources. On the whole, the two sets of figures agree – the only real query is over the population projections for the next 20 years. These are supplied to BCKL&WN by ONS and show a growth in population which is in stark contrast to the anticipated decline in the baseline situation based on the 2001-11 analysis we have carried out. The housing team think that our locally-based figures are likely to be more realistic and we are now looking at the figures more closely in order to justify our approach.
5. Whilst our work on the NDP has been proceeding the BCKL&WN have notified us of an Appeal against the refusal of consent to develop a mobile homes site on Eastgate. This is one of two sites which are being promoted for allocation in Holme through the Local Plan Review and which we have been asked to screen as part of the NDP process. The outcome of the appeal is clearly relevant to our work, although we understand that if the appeal is dismissed the owners can still proceed with their proposals for an allocation – which means we must proceed with the assessment.
6. Christina has recently re-contacted two local landowners with a view to progressing our proposals for the expansion of the footpath network along the A149. A response is awaited but it seems likely that the response will be too late to allow us to support the proposal received from Thornham Parish Council suggesting a collaborative project to link local footpaths with a crossing of the main road close to Drove.