

Neighbourhood Plan Progress Report – PC Meeting 17 October 2017

Work in progress during the course of the past month

1. For much of September the Neighbourhood Plan had to take a back seat with priority being given over to responses to the Ocean Breaks Appeal and the new Norfolk Strategic Framework. A good deal of the work on the Appeal was however relevant to the NDP – particularly the work on Flood Risk and the Protected Sites.
2. On 22 September, after a 6 week wait, we were able to meet the Borough's Planning Policy Team to receive their feedback on our proposed land use zoning system (originally discussed early July and revised early August). This was something of a milestone meeting at which we discussed the basis for the land use policies in our plan.
 - We discussed our proposals for dividing the Parish into zones including a settlement Zone (containing a development envelope which will be the main focus for any new development) and a Managed Coastal Change Zone where development will be more limited due to flood risk considerations imposed by rising sea level.
 - We also discussed six broad policies which will be used to control different types of development in different parts of the Parish, including the Protected Sites, Drove Orchards, a zone to improve parish amenity and dissipate pressures on the protected sites and countryside.
3. During the meeting, the planning team suggested some further, small changes to the development boundary but the feedback was generally very positive so that we can now progress with the more detailed policies.
4. Following the meeting with the planners we had a meeting with Richard High our Planning Consultant and he has agreed to translate our policies into a more final form that can be incorporated into the final plan. These should be available by mid-October.
5. An interim report on water quality in The Hun and Broadwater will be available shortly – and a meeting has been arranged with Cllr Jamieson to discuss the issues that he raised at September's PC meeting relating to NDP matters including The Hun project, flood risk and the SMP. As far as I can see the PC has not been consulted on the proposed de-maining of the River and it is important that people attend the Drop-In session to find out more (27/10 in Hunstanton) and in particular how it relates to The Hun Project and the SMP.
6. Unfortunately despite the fact that the EA have indicated they are keen to see a zone where development will be limited by flood risk considerations, since providing clarification on the SMP for The Environmental Designations Report they have not been very helpful in responding to requests for information. Moreover, they have indicated that they will make a charge of £84 per person hour for advice – this seems extraordinary given that they are statutory consultees for the regulation 14 Consultation.
7. We are now some months behind schedule (partly for reasons outside our control) but will be pressing on with meetings and drafting policies over the coming weeks with a view to organising another consultation event later in the year.
8. Meanwhile Christina drafted the short article for the October edition of LINK explaining what has been happening with the Plan over the past few months.