

MUCH MARCLE PARISH COUNCIL

Report of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party held in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 15th April 2015

Present:

Councillors T Weston Chairman

Also Present J Brierley K Cotton (attended the later parts of the meeting)

J Finnigan C Monkley

S Rose J Wood

R White

J Gibbon NPWP Secretary

1. Apologies

B Morgan

J Marsden

J Weston

H Woodman

D Baldwin

Clerk to the Parish Council

2. Declarations of interest.

It was agreed that declarations of interest would be made as they arose during discussion.

3. Report 18th March 2015

The Secretary gave his apologies for failing to include K Cotton in the list of attendees.

The report was accepted.

4. Review of Public Meetings held on March 22nd & 23rd.

The three leaders at the meeting were commended for their efforts.

Following reference to the Report of Public Meetings held on March 22nd & 23rd the following points made:

Almost one third of the village attended the meetings so that involvement by residents was considerable.

The conclusions derived from the questionnaire presented two conflicting ideas i.e. the need to encourage affordable housing for young families (which means developments greater than ten houses) and the support for individual houses spread throughout the village largely by using redundant buildings.

A partnership with Housing Associations was an option which merited consideration.

Sewage was one feature of infra-structure needing thought.

Affordable housing for local residents needed some controls.

The "Village Design Statement" was already part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The provision of small houses for first time buyers was to be encouraged where possible.

School traffic issues were not the concern of this working party.

Energy generation issues (Wind turbines and photoelectric panels were referred to.

The use of the term dominant with regard to the operation of Herefordshire Core Strategy in parallel with the Much Marcle Development Plan was questioned.

The meeting accepted the report.

5. The Way Ahead

Reference was also made to **“Herefordshire Core Strategy 2011-2031: Rural Areas Significant change to required housing numbers.”**

A letter from B Morgan was read to the meeting highlighting his angst.

The new figure of 40 buildings appeared to be obtained by using 14% of the number of village residences of 294.

Another important constraining factor is that the number of buildings that can be barn conversions is limited. In the document these are unplanned windfalls.

Action The Chairman was asked to seek clarification from Herefordshire Planning Department of the change in numbers.

Objections to an unreasonable increase were likely to be made by the Parish Council by May 1st

6. Business Survey prepared by J Weston and J Brierley

The document as produced was intended for general circulation this was amended to be targeted at businesses only.

Many of the proposed questions required tick box responses. It was suggested that the use of open ended questions was preferable.

Action J Weston and J Brierley were asked to consider the comments made and to resubmit the Business Survey at the next meeting.

7. Items to be included in the Agenda for the next meeting.

a. Future steps – aided by the analysis of the Neighbourhood Planning process provided by S Tagg.

b. Consideration of the use of professional help if the funding situation is clarified.

c. Revised Business Survey.

8. J Wood stepping down from the Working Party.

J Wood announced that he was moving to Ledbury and he was stepping down from the Working Party.

9. Date of Next Meeting 20/05/15

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

J. Gibbon

Secretary NPWP

April 2015