

WEST WICKHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE ("the Village")
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ("NP")

Minutes of meeting of Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Working Group (WG)
7.30pm Tuesday 4th December 2018 at 49 Burton End

PRESENT:

Andrew Morris (AMo)
Anita Stone (AS)
Arthur Mawby (AMa)
David Sargeant (DS - Minute Taker)
Georgina Magin (GM)
Janet Morris (JM)
Simon Blackwell (SB)
Trevor Hall (TH - Chair)

APOLOGIES:

None.

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM 6 NOVEMBER MEETING

1.1 As James Midwood has not contacted the working group or attended any meetings this year it was considered he no longer wishes to be involved and access to Dropbox and the email list should be removed.

ACTION DS: Revoke James' access immediately.

2. CHARACTER ASSESSMENT (CA)

2.1 TH has circulated the draft from Red Graphic. It was agreed it looks really good and the several members expressed thanks to Janet and Andrew for all their hard work in getting to this point.

2.2 A couple of minor text edits were discussed but as the draft has been available for comment for several months it was agreed that only major errors would be corrected at this stage.

2.2 The changes to make included (a) one of the captions was incorrect. (b) remove the figure numbers. (c) the attribution of a quote from the SDCD Local Plan will be made more explicit.

2.3 The wide aerial photo of area 2 was discussed. The caption mentions the village hall but unless you know what you are looking at it isn't obvious. Sadly the image isn't up to further zooming/cropping without the low resolution becoming apparent.

2.4 GM would like more modern images of some of the historic buildings in the parish but this was noted to be tricky (a) there is a 16 page limit (b) in many cases the buildings are now obscured by vegetation.

2.5 The pdf for web publication needs to be in single page format.

2.6 We have sufficient funds in the quote for these edits.

ACTION JM is going to email TH the corrections. TH will visit Red Graphic and circulate the next draft.

3. MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

3.1 Regarding implementing 40 mph buffer zones on entry to the 30 mph zones:

3.1.1 This could be funded by a Local Highways Improvement (LHI) bid, but we have missed the 18/19 window.

3.1.2 The Parish council have approached to the working group to see if we could consult opinion on their behalf. Given that we don't have an imminent survey and it was decided that a short section in the village voice would be appropriate.

3.1.3 It was generally agreed they would probably receive widespread support.

3.1.4 West Wrattling had successfully bid for and delivered buffer zones but the cost to the parish several thousand pounds.

ACTION DS Write something for the Village Voice inviting comments.

4. ENVIRONMENT POLICIES

4.1 Anita has kindly provided detailed information to help develop our environmental protection policies. The working group found the information very helpful and were very grateful for Anita's expertise.

4.2 Anita took us through her notes and explained some of the sources of data she had used. In particular the maps from 'magic' DEFRA website were of interest. We can't use these directly due to the various copyright issues.

4.3 We wanted to know the classification of the agricultural land in in the parish. Anita noted that it is lower in the less free draining east and on the chalkland on Balsham hill. We can get the data from the Cranfield Soil Institute.

4.4 Hedgerows: these are an asset both from an environmental and character perspective.

4.4.1 We have some valuable ancient hedgerows. JM thinks the Yen Hall boundary is probably Saxon. Hedgerows from the time of the enclosure act are still around 200 years old.

4.4.2 Policy wise we should be looking to (a) protect hedgerows where possible and insist on replacement where their removal is unavoidable. (b) advocate planting of mixed native species.

4.5 We have notable 'veteran' trees in the parish and we would like policies to afford them as much protection as we can have. We will have to take advice to see what can be achieved.

4.5.1 It was felt it worth listing a number of the most valuable in an appendix to try and make it clear how important they are. It was proposed that up to 20 was a reasonable number.

4.5.2 TH has the start of a list from when he was on the Parish Council. AS has offered to make a list for Streetly End.

4.5.2 We currently don't have any Tree Preservation Orders in the parish.

4.6 We have a Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) wood in part of Over wood. Over, Hare, Ley and Cadges woods are all recognised as ancient woodland. We will have policies to protect these and promote them as of environmental assets.

4.7 Anita has listed some of the flora and fauna present in the parish that are European Protected Species (EPS) or are recognised as nationally or internationally rare.

4.7.1 The working group will approach Steve Licence who keeps records of his observations.

4.7.2 There are also notable bird species and habitats including turtle doves, corn buntings, lapwings and golden plovers.

4.7.3 Much of this evidence comes from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) surveys or National Biodiversity Network (BDN) records. We can use this to support our policies.

4.8 Gardens also have value to wildlife and we should acknowledge that and protect them or mitigate habitat loss much as possible in the built environment policies.

4.9 We would like a policy that presumes against development in open country or that impacts valuable habitats. It isn't clear how these restrictions would sit along side allowing agricultural businesses to develop.

4.10 For policies relating to agricultural land use and practice we need advice from ACRE. These policies would have environmental and economic aspects – we would like something that supports practices that help the environment.

4.11 Dark Skies:

4.11.1 It was noted that our skies are quite dark but the glow from Haverhill is visible so we can't declare national dark skies reserve status or anything like that.

4.11.2 We would still like to limit development with street lighting or intrusive security lighting. This came up in our survey comments. It wasn't known whether security lights or outdoor character lighting (for example at Think Audio Visual in Horseheath) are a planning issue. DS said he will try and find out.

5. MAPS

5.1 We have access to some map images through Parish Online – TH thinks we subscribe as a parish council.

5.2 TH also says that Cambridgeshire County Council mapping services people are obliged to help us prepare a NP and they did for the maps for the CA.

5.3 The maps from <https://magic.defra.gov.uk> that Anita showed us are amazing but the copyright is with the Crown or the data holder so we can't use them directly.

6. AOB

5.1 JM has uploaded the 2011 Census data onto Dropbox.

5.2 As requested at our last time JM has investigated the status of the war memorials in the parish:

5.2.1 Our war memorial does not have statutory listed status (interestingly the one in Balsham does), however, it is in the curtilage of the Church so benefits from that protection.

5.2.1 It is not currently listed on the Imperial War Museum or War Memorials Trust lists but JM plans to add it.

5.2.2 SCDC do recognise it (along with the Wrattling Common Memorial) and thus they are protected by the local plan historic environment policies.

5.2.3 It wasn't felt that it needed a special policy in our NP.

5.3 TH proposed that a Saturday would be best for our first training session with ACRE and proposed **Saturday the 5th of January**.

ACTION TH: Find out Rachel's availability and pass on a list of topics we would like help with.

6. NEXT MEETING

6.1 Next meeting will be on at 1930 on **8th January 2019** at 49 Burton End

6.2 Subsequent meetings is planned for the 5th February, 12th March and 2nd April.

Meeting closed 9.25pm