



**WITHERLEY PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
STEERING GROUP  
Minutes**

The Minutes of a Meeting of The Steering Group held at 7.00 pm on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at St Peter's Church, Witherley.

**Present**

Kay Conway in The Chair (Witherley)  
Helen Bullivant (Ratcliffe Culey)  
Brian Conway (Parish Council)  
Laura Dyer (Ratcliffe Culey)  
Dayle Flude (Atterton)  
Derek Ridgway, Treasurer (Fenny Drayton)  
David Wilkins (Ratcliffe Culey)

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from:  
Maureen Cooke (Fenny Drayton)  
Mark Simpson (Parish Council)  
Charlotte Ward Lewis, Secretary (Witherley)

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting of The Steering Group held on Wednesday, 11 April were agreed to be a true record.

**4. Matters Arising**

No matters arising from the Minutes. However, the Drop Box was presenting problems for some users and Brian Conway undertook to look into this to find an information sharing system suited to all users.

**5. Financial Report and Grant Information**

The Treasurer, Derek Ridgway, reported expenditure totalling £215.15 from the Parish Council Grant of £1,000. Invoices had not yet been issued for use of the Parish Rooms and Fenny Drayton Church. The Treasurer agreed to chase these up.

**6. MIRA**

In April 2018 HORIBA MIRA announced their proposal to submit a planning application for a new vehicle test facility for connected and autonomous vehicles. The proposed site forms part of the Enterprise Zone within the HORIBA MIRA landholding to the north of the existing proving ground. HORIBA MIRA will seek approval for the proposal in August 2018 and aim to have the track completed by December 2019. Details of the proposal are available on the Borough Council's website.

Helen Bullivant and David Wilkins attended the Public Consultation event on Tuesday, 24 April and Helen's detailed report was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

The application is for the laying of track and erection of buildings and communications masts. Approximately 50% of the proposed development falls within the Parish boundary to the South East of the Parish. The site abuts the Bosworth Battlefield site and the roman road, Fenn Lanes, close to its junctions with Stoke Road and Higham Field's Lane.

Brian Conway informed the meeting that the Parish Council had no objections to the proposal. Members expressed concerns about the negative impact upon the natural habitat, potential flood risks and increased traffic problems due to intense heavy vehicle usage during the construction phase.

The Chair thanked Helen for her excellent report.

## **7. Wildlife Survey**

Helen Bullivant informed the meeting that in 2012 The Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre had conducted a wildlife survey of the County. The Witherley Habitat Survey was available without fee. Paper evidence might also be available from organisations like the Leicestershire and Rutland Wild Life Trust and from reports commissioned by Hinckley and Bosworth Council from organisations like WYG while working towards the Local Plan. Brian Conway to liaise with the Borough Council to ease access to any relevant surveys.

A full Phase I Survey of the Parish, to identify the richest and most vulnerable wildlife sites, may not be required as elements of it had already been done. Helen Bullivant to refer to John Preston and Jhanvi Shukla from the Rural Community Council about funding and the permissions procedures to survey private land in the Parish.

## **8. Appointment of Consultants**

The three Planning Consultants, previously identified to help write our plan, would be asked to present to the Committee in June so that an appointment can be made. Martin Taylor a Chartered Surveyor residing in Ratcliffe Culey had offered advice about this appointment. A grid of questions would be compiled for the interviews.

## **9. Key Issues Forms**

Work on the forms was underway by members.

## **10. Any other business**

Helen Bullivant informed the committee of NatureSpot an easy to use website to record the wildlife of Leicestershire and Rutland [www.naturespot.org.uk](http://www.naturespot.org.uk). Sightings of animals, birds, rare flowers, fungi and plants can be recorded. The information is collated by the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Record Centre adding to wildlife information of our habitat. It was suggested that we approach schools and children in the area to get them involved to develop their knowledge and appreciation of where they live. Helen to liaise with Charlotte Ward Lewis about this initiative.

## **11. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

7.00 pm Monday, 11th June.