

**Neighbourhood Development Plan for the villages of
Witherley, Fenny Drayton, Ratcliffe Culey and Atterton**

**Minutes of meeting of Steering Group
Held on Tuesday 14 May 2019 at Fenny Drayton Church**

Present:	Kay Conway (Chairman)	Witherley
	Derek Ridgway	Fenny Drayton
	Brian Conway	Witherley
	Laura Dyer	Ratcliffe Culey
	Helen Bullivant	Ratcliffe Culey
	Dayle Flude	Atterton
	Mark Simpson	Fenny Drayton
	David Wilkins	Ratcliffe Culey
	Rhiannon Taylor (minutes)	Witherley

	<u>ACTION</u>
1. <u>Apologies</u> No apologies	
2. <u>Declaration of Interests</u> None	
3. <u>Previous Meeting</u> The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 th April 2019 were accepted as a true record.	
3.1 <u>Matters Arising</u> DF queried Ordnance Survey maps which had not yet been supplied – BC undertook to find contact at HBBC who could provide these.	BC
5. <u>Financial Report</u>	
4.1 Several meetings have been held at Witherley Parish Room but no invoice has yet been received, in spite of repeated requests. RT undertook to query this at PCC meeting to be held on 15 May 2019.	RT
4.2 An invoice for print cartridges having been passed to DR, £454.80 remains in the coffers.	
4.3 Further Grant: the window for applications had opened the day before the meeting and KC had completed and sent this off with the assistance of Your Locale – grant application was for £8,600; there is also the possibility of further ‘technical’ support as well. Grant of £4,300 already received has been spent and the next tranche of monies will fund the continuing assistance of the Consultants. It has to be spent within the next financial year, ie to end March 2020 and the cost of the consultancy to the end of the project has been already agreed with Your Locale.	
5. <u>Parish Council</u>	
5.1 MS reported that BC had been elected as Chair with himself as Vice Chair. Domestic planning applications: nothing pertaining to the NDP.	

5.1 Continued

Witherley School has applied for a multi-use games area (MUGA) which will improve their offer to potential pupils, but there is concern amongst some local residents about where it should be sited, to keep it away from domestic dwellings. It will not be used by outside groups and outside school hours.

A planning application has been made by MS's family for a replacement building on the Countrywide Stores site at The Redgate.

6. Reports from Themed Groups:

6.1 Housing: BC reported that at present there is no allocation of housing needs by HBBC in our Parish, but should this change in the future, the purpose of the NDP is to identify what is required.

After reviewing the available evidence from the drop-in events and residents' survey, the Theme Group has identified a need for 10 new homes with no more than 3 bedrooms and 5 of these being affordable. BC noted that Leicester City Council is unable to provide all the housing it requires and so other Leicestershire councils have a duty to take up the slack, including HBBC.

If sites are put forward and deemed unsuitable due to environmental reasons, for example, then the Technical Support that we could still apply for could be used to evaluate the sites. However, it is understood that if the NDP does not identify any sites, then the Plan may not be passed by HBBC – but landowners may not feel it is worthwhile developing plots of land for only 5 to 10 houses.

MS suggested a joint meeting of all three theme groups, because we are operating in isolation, some areas will cross over, and it would be valuable to see where we all are.

BC tabled a draft letter to Landowners seeking offers of sites, to be commented on and evaluated **by 3rd June**.

ALL

6.2 Environment: HB, LD and DW commented on the Environmental survey which they had been asked to do by their facilitator from Your Locale, which has proved extremely difficult to implement. HB had previously found a Consultant who could carry out the work at a cost, but BC suggested that the NDP process doesn't require such detailed investigation of every field in the Parish. This work should only be carried out on sites that are at risk of development. No agreement on the wildlife survey was reached.

6.3 Community Sustainability: This section of work is progressing quickly with the help of Mike Preston and is three quarters completed. MS was asked to provide a piece on the history of farming in the Parish and diversification.

MS

7. SEA

KC tabled information received from Fran Belcher at HBBC Planning, regarding the Strategic Environmental Assessment which states:

“Most of our groups have started this process after the Regulation 14 consultation and it has taken longer than anticipated. In past experiences with Newbold Verdon and Desford, their processes have been significantly delayed as they started the SEA screening later in the process and have had to do full SEA reports.

This has added a significant number of months onto the end of the project plan before they can submit the plan to the council under Regulation 15. Therefore we would advise the earlier you can complete the SEA screening the better.”

KC reported that other local authorities in Leicestershire carried this out themselves, but not HBBC. Another NDP in the county had not needed to complete a SEA at all. HBBC instructed the Rural Community Council to help us. Communication with Jhanvi Shukla proved that we need to have a draft Plan before we can start the Assessment, if we do.

8. Meeting with Highways England

KC and BC met with Samantha Pinnock and Sara Lupidi – Samantha Pinnock has responsibility for A5 south of Mancetter Island.

They jointly viewed the three access routes that would be impacted by more development in the Parish, ie Bridge Lane, Kennel Lane and Drayton Lane.

Duelling of this stretch of the A5 is unlikely to happen for some years due to Highways England being unable to commit funding to it.

Possible improvements may be undertaken at Woodford Lane.

9. Any Other Business

DR has written to KC to inform her that he is struggling to find the time to undertake more work with the NDP as he is already committed to nine other groups, but he is continuing on the Steering Group.

The result of the review of the No. 7 Bus Service will be revealed at a presentation at Witherley Parish Rooms on **10th June from 6.00 pm.**

It was agreed that a joint meeting of all Theme Groups could be held at the Parish Rooms, Witherley on Monday 17th June, with the **Steering Group meeting at 7.30 pm** and the **other groups joining the meeting at 8.00 pm**, to discuss what has been achieved so far.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Date of next meeting – Monday 17th June at 7.30 Witherley Parish Room

ALL