

## Notes from the Neighbourhood Plan briefing Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017

36 members of the public attended, and Cllrs Rees, Cannell, Scott and Johnson.

Talk by Stuart Halsey from East Suffolk's Community Team, the team also helps Community Groups, disability groups, schools, older people with access to funding, managing events etc. and seeks to strengthen relationships between residents and Councillors. They also have a role in Safety and Crime reduction.

Mr Halsey started with comparisons between the different plans.

(Copies of fuller descriptions attached)

- 1) One day consultation which can be used as a starting point for a Parish or Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2) Parish Plan – which can take 12-18 months to complete. Although not a statutory document it can carry weight with the District & County Councils
- 3) Neighbourhood Plan – 2 -3 + years to complete, focusing primarily on planning related issues. This is a statutory planning document which the District Council has to take into account when deciding on planning applications.

A consultant is needed for a Neighbourhood Plan, for which funding is available, the plan is also looked at by an independent planning examiner and then subject to a referendum, WDC will fund the referendum.

If the District's Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan are very different, Mr Halsey said that they will gradually come closer as the aim is that they should complement each other. Parishes can make a joint Plan, but should be careful not to make the combined area too large.

One member of the public said that in his experience in another area the District Council may have to take a Neighbourhood Plan into account when making their decisions that does not always mean that they will not override one.

Mr Halsey is to find the answers to the following questions and get back to the Clerk or Chair who will then pass on the answers to all those who left contact details.

- 1) WDC Planners did not seem to have much local knowledge, could a meeting with them be arranged?
- 2) If Parishes have no Community Plan do they have anything to back up any objections to a Local Plan?
- 3) How is the boundary for a NP established?
- 4) Does there have to be a specific majority vote in the referendum for the result to stand?
- 5) Could a change of Government Planning Policy have a negative impact on the significance of a NP?

- 6) Why does a NP take so long, could it be completed over a shorter time?
- 7) Could more information on the significant dates/timescales for the consultation and adoption of the Local Plan be made available to the PC.

Although these Plans are Council led, they are meant to be made by the community which means lots of volunteers, who although will have to give up a fair amount of time, can gain new skills, mix with their neighbours and learn more about their community.

Cllr Rees thanked Stuart coming and talking to the meeting and said that if anyone would like to volunteer with one of the Plans they should contact any of the Councillors or the Clerk.