

Subject: Questions from last nights meeting

Good morning

It was great to meet you both last night at the meeting and I hope you and the other attendees managed to take something away from the session. As discussed, please see below the questions/issues raised which I said I would refer to our Planning Officers for them to respond. If there is anything I have missed, or there are additional questions you would like answering, please forward these to me.

- 1) Attendees felt WDC Planners had a lack of local knowledge for this area (Ringsfield and surrounding Parishes). Is it possible to arrange a meeting between the relevant Planning Officer/s and 1 or 2 representatives from each of the Parish Councils to address this issue? **As part of the Local Plan consultation, Parish Councils were offered the chance to arrange one-to-one meets with planning policy officers to discuss the first draft Local Plan. Many Parish and Town Councils took this offer up. Any specific concerns that Parish Councils have can be included in their response to the first draft Local Plan consultation.**

- 2) If Parishes do not have a Parish/Neighbourhood Plan to refer to, how can they respond to planning related proposals in the future if they do not agree with what is being proposed? **Parish Councils are consulted as part of the Local Plan process and the planning application process. It is not necessary to have a Parish or Neighbourhood Plan to comment on the Local Plan or planning applications, they can make perfectly valid representations without these in place.**

- 3) How is the boundary determined for when a Neighbourhood Plan referendum takes place? Is this inline with the Parish Boundary or is there some flexibility? **An early stage of the Neighbourhood Planning process is to set the boundary for the Neighbourhood Area. This does not necessarily need to be tied to any administrative boundary and can be set where the Neighbourhood Planning team feel it is most appropriate.**

- 4) Does there have to be a specific majority vote in the referendum in order for the result to stand? **No, it is a majority.**

- 5) Could a change in Government have a negative impact on the significance of a Neighbourhood Plan if there is a change in Planning Policy? **Changes made by Government may have a positive impact on the significance of Neighbourhood Plans, for example the current Government have recently brought in to force the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017. Ultimately, we don't know how national planning policy or planning law may change in the future.**

- 6) Why is the time scale for a Neighbourhood Plan so long, could this be completed over a shorter period of time? **There is no fixed time period for developing a Neighbourhood Plan. The time needed to develop the plan may relate to the number of issues or complexity of the issues that are involved. Consultation events and questionnaires need adequate time to collate and analyse responses which all have an impact on the time taken to complete the plans. In some cases factors beyond anyone's control can arise, ie arranging an examination or issues coming up through consultation which need further work - Kessingland were proceeding and then need a housing needs survey.**

- 7) Could more information on the significant dates/timescales for the consultation and adoption of the Local Area Plan be made available to the group. **For information click on <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/local-plans/waveney-local-plan/new-waveney-local-plan/>**

Once I have the responses for all the questions raised at last nights meeting, I will share these with you along with the documents I referred to. Is this something you are then able to email out to the other attendees?

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything else I might be able to help with.

Many thanks

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