

Little Milton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Minutes of meeting held on 30th November 2016 at The Old Stores

Attendees

Barry Coward (Parish Councillor) - Chairman

Mike Holifield (Resident)

Kate Daunt (Parish Councillor)

Raymond Fergusson (Parish Clerk)

1. Apologies

The Chairman informed the meeting that apologies had been received from Elizabeth Swabey-Collison Ian Dennis and Bertie Bright.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2016 were accepted as true record of the meeting

3. Matters Arising

SODC staff

The Chairman reported that he and Raymond had a meeting with Ricardo Rios, the recently appointed SODC Neighbourhood Planning Officer on Wednesday 30th November 2016 at Milton Park. Ricardo worked on Neighbourhood Plans in and around Stroud and brings with him good experience. Ricardo stated that the Adopted Core Strategy Adopted in 2012 was still the legal basis against which Inspectors considered Planning Appeals and this raised the question of the timing of seeking approval of our Neighbourhood Plan as the Emerging Local Plan would replace the Core Strategy and could require us to revise our Neighbourhood Plan. The discussion with Ricardo centred round the development of policies that strengthened existing policies of SODC but added local detail. Ricardo raised the possibility of the designation of Open Green Spaces to afford protection from development. This could be done within the existing Green Belt areas. There was also a discussion on Rural Exception Sites and Ricardo recommended that these were not included in the Neighbourhood Development Plan. However he did suggest that the Parish Council could consider a Community Right to Build Order. The overall impression was that the Public Examination would be very thorough and as a consequence it was very important that the final Neighbourhood Development Plan had sufficient evidence to support the proposed policies. Ricardo stated that he would establish the position on the need to include a Strategic Environmental Assessment as a consequence of the Chairman seeking clarification.

4. Local Plan

The Chairman referred to the Local Plan update in the Outlook/ Autumn 2016 that indicated there would be two further consultations before a Public Examination by a government planning inspector. The first consultation will take place in early 2017 in respect of a range of detailed planning policies including those that help in deciding planning applications and the types of infrastructure necessary to support new housing and jobs such as roads parks and schools. The second consultation will be on the amended policies within the Draft Local Plan along with details of the main housing sites identified for the District. All comments will be go to the planning inspector along with the Local Plan. It is unlikely that the Local Plan will be adopted before the end of 2017 and more likely in the first quarter of 2018.

5. Village Survey

The Chairman was pleased to report that he had delivered the completed questionnaires to Stratford upon Avon Council on the 23rd November. Barry was delighted to report a completion rate of 77% and this was considered to be very satisfactory

6. Progress on consultation to date

The following was the progress on a number of areas that had been identified

1) Ditchend Farm

Mike Holifield indicated that he would follow up his discussions with the new owners of Ditchend Farm once probate had been determined.

2) OCC Highways

The Chairman reported that he had contacted OCC Highways and was pleased with their early response. He stated that a meeting had been arranged on December 7th 2016 to consider a number of Strategic Issues that could impact on the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Barry informed the meeting that OCC had an officer that advised on Neighbourhood Development Plans. The Chairman believed that the roads and their related issues was becoming an important issue.

7. Evidence base-Background Document-progress

The Chairman stated that he had included a new section for Roads that included issues related to air pollution and traffic noise and this was part of the evidence base. The section on Housing Needs Assessment would be finalised after the results of the questionnaire were analysed.

8. Roads

This matter had been discussed under 6 (2) but it was noted that although the Strategy for the road network was the responsibility of OCC the impact on a number of related issues would be included within the Neighbourhood Development Plan

9. Ditchend Farm

The Chairman raised the question as to whether Ditchend Farm was a suitable site for development as it was a possible brown field site. Mike Holifield highlighted some changes to Permitted Development rights for Light Industrial Units. The meeting considered it inappropriate to comment on any individual site.

10. Drafting the Plan

The Chairman felt that in the light of the meeting with Ricardo it may be necessary to evaluate what we are trying to achieve and what policies are required to support our aims. The timing of the adoption of the SODC Emerging Local Plan 2032 could impact on the overall timing of our Neighbourhood Development Plan albeit work will continue on the development of the policies and evidence gathering

11. Statutory Consultees

The Chairman outlined the need to embrace all the Statutory Consultees although many had already been consulted e.g. Thames Water. He referred to other Neighbourhood Development Plan documents where there is evidence of a comprehensive list as part of the supporting evidence. It will need to include adjoining Parish Councils. He stressed it was an important part of the submission to demonstrate the fullest consultation.

12. Overall progress

The Chairman stated that the overall position was good as the survey had been completed and sent for analysis, the evidence gathering was almost complete although it might need some additional work. Barry requested that the website should be updated with the new evidence sections e.g. Roads and any revisions of existing sections.

13. Any Other Business

There was a brief discussion on car parking in respect of Gold Street and Haseley road and this issue would be considered for incorporation into the Plan.

14. Next Meeting

The next Steering Group Meeting will be held on Thursday 15th December 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at The Old Stores.

Other meetings are planned on Thursday 15 December and Thursday 5 January 2017