

Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Sub-Committee.

Monthly Report to Southwick Parish Council – 16 April 2019

1) General Progress.

At the meeting held on Wed 10th April, the Steering Committee resolved to form two Working Parties.

The first WP will be formed to establish the best way forward with expanding upon the Landscape Gap policy. This WP will be lead by Barbara Johnson and supported by Aaron Smith.

The second WP will formed to support the preparations for the Public Event being held in late May. Cllr Eaton will be leading this WP. Serious concerns exist regarding the available timeframe in which to prepare for this event.

In the absence of a Clerk being present at Steering Committee meetings, Cllr Noble has accepted responsibility for drafting the Minutes from the last Steering Committee meeting and supplying these to the full Parish Council.

2) Call for Sites - Communications from Landowners and their Agents.

The Steering Committee have received a number of communications from landowner agents interested in being part of our Neighbourhood Development Plan.

All landowner communications have been passed to our consultant, Aaron Smith to ensure that they are dealt with both professionally and objectively.

The letter from Redrow's agents Lichfield's was discussed at Steering Committee on the 10th April.

As members of the community make up at least half of the committee, this meets the need for public transparency.

Unless there is an issue with the Letter that the Steering Committee cannot resolve, the discussion at Steering Committee level negates the need for further review and comment by the full Parish Council.

It is surprising therefore that Lichfield's letter has found its way onto the full Parish Council agenda when the matter has already been dealt with and our consultant is ready to pen an appropriate response.

Efforts by the Steering Committee and the Parish Council are clearly being duplicated here. This only serves to denigrate the existence and functional purpose of the Steering Committee.

The review of Lichfield's letter by the Parish Council in complete isolation of other landowner communications may also be interpreted as a partisan approach in favour of developing the site at Blind Lane.

3) Financials.

It was agreed at the January meeting of the full Parish Council that the financials for Neighbourhood Planning would remain the responsibility of the Parish Council, not the Steering Committee. Therefore it is up to the Parish Council to track and report on Neighbourhood Plan financials.

By the same token, members of the Parish Council will also need to submit an application for further grant funding. Before the Council can do this however, an End of Grant Report for 2018/2019 will need to be submitted to Locality.

4) Joiners & Leavers

Cllr Brian Pitney has resigned from the Steering Committee. Please see contents of Brian's resignation email below.

Josh Heydon has joined the Steering Committee as a community member.