

Minutes of Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Meeting – Tuesday 20th February 2018 held at Ixworth Village Hall at 7pm

Present – Tessa Stonehouse (Chair), Debra Reay (early departure), Nick Laughton (PC), Stephan Mann (VH), Adrian Harmer (late arrival), Richard Courtneil and Graeme Norris (Chair Troston PC)
Also; Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk) (early departure), Alf Percival (NP Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from: Sophia Wilson (Ix Thorpe PC), John Rowe (PC) and Ben Birrell (PC)
Tessa sadly announced resignation of Penrose Robertson for personal reasons

2. Approve and Sign Minutes

NP Chair signed minutes of previous meeting held 23.01.18

3. Introductions by all members of NP Working Group

All members present quickly introduced themselves to the rest of the group.
Tessa welcomed Graeme Norris (Chair Troston PC) who is joining the NP Working Group. Graeme is retired, lives in Troston (there is no NP planned for Troston) as Troston has limited facilities, residents make extensive use of Ixworth. Hence Graeme has a strong interest in the NP produced for Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe. Graham is also Chair of the Ixworth Patient Association and volunteers with the West Suffolk Medical Commissioning Group and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the NP Group.

4. New dedicated NP E-mail address

NP Clerk confirmed and operating as ixworthnp@hotmail.com

5. Website Co-ordination

Discussion centred on the most effective way to promote and communicate the workings of the NP Working Group and the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. It was felt that the most effective way to achieve this for local residents and the public at large was to ensure that clear information was available from a single source, provided that Adrian Harmer was in agreement (Adrian's attendance for the meeting was unfortunately delayed). This should be achieved by creating a unified NP information page on both the Ixworth Village and Ixworth Village Hall websites that carried links to the Parish Council website, where full information about the NP would be available. The PC Clerk would create dedicated pages on the PC website to best display the information available about the functioning of the NP Working Group and progress with the Neighbourhood Plan.

- Mandy Adlington (PC Clerk), Ixworth Parish Council website <http://ixworthandixworththorpe.onesuffolk.net/>
- Alf percival (NP Clerk), Ixworth Village Hall website <http://www.ixworthvillagehall.co.uk/>
- Adrian Harmer, Ixworth Village website <http://www.ixworthvillage.co.uk/>

At the close of the meeting Adrian and Alf discussed the above and Adrian indicated that he would be happy to adopt the above approach.

6. NP Logo/Brand/Strapline development

Tessa directed that following the departure of Penrose Robertson this item would be postponed to a later meeting which will be advised once the Vision/Project Plan and drafting of the Grant Application had been finalised.

7. Ixworth/Ixworth Thorpe NP "Vision"

Large scale maps, note pads, flip charts were made available to aid the Working Group in discussions to formulate the NP "Vision" statement. Members had all previously had sight of the vision and objectives examples from Framlingham and Shifnal.

A plethora of ideas were exchanged and brought up for discussion and inclusion in the draft "Vision"

Amenities

- Residents of Troston have a very strong interest in Ixworth owing to limited amenities in Troston and the local area generally.
 - Especially GP practice
 - Library
 - Convenience stores, restaurants and garage services
 - Ixworth could become an even stronger hub for all adjacent villages
- Possible Pre-School in old Community Centre at the Free School – currently vacant
 - Possible provision of a social centre for young people
- Possible move of current VH to new site at top of village
 - Use of old VH for commercial units, rental income for VH, local employment, local small business opportunities, improve visitor numbers to Ixworth
 - Increase size of existing carpark for retail use and reduce high street parking
- Fully utilise Sports Facilities at Free School (open longer) & providing enhanced breadth and depth of sporting options.
 - Existing VH sports field could provide a central green space as a focal point for the village
- Urgent need for expansion of GP facilities with expected growth in residents by 2031
 - Possible relocation of GP surgery to new site at top of village
 - Use of old site linked with adjacent facility for future elderly/dementia care
- Increasing size of Ixworth would give it a critical size to enable provision of a dentist
- Primary School would have insufficient capacity to support expected expansion. Move possible to a new site at top of village.
 - Old site would provide plot for housing re-development

Residential Development

- There are 3 potential development areas
 - To the North of the village bounded by the A1088 By-Pass
 - To the East of the village bounded by Crown lane, A134 By Pass
 - To the South but this area is within the Parish of Pakenham
- The area to the East potentially has 3 phases of development
 - Currently, there is no planning permission granted to the developers Persimmon for this site! It's still under consultation. The only thing that permission has been granted on is the ghost island junction which was earlier refused but overturned on appeal.
 - Phase one is closest to Crown Lane for potentially 87 properties, this is high density about 20 per acre, this is a density concern for the "character" of the village where a density of 12 per acre is more appropriate
 - Phases 2 and 3 could add approximately another 200-250 properties
- To establish an Ixworth Thorpe village envelope to allow infill development ensuring a sustainable community for this part of the Parish
- Need for careful consideration of "mixed" housing, affordable as opposed to social. Larger for families, smaller/single story for older downsizers, completed in a progression of housing phases.

Infrastructure

- Critical that any new developments have beneficial access/egress routes. Safe to reach but will not negatively impact the high street or create a satellite area with little integration into village life
- Concern exists about access to the future development area to the East side of Ixworth, with a “ghost” junction off the By-Pass with a secondary access by the secondary school.
 - This is considered a dangerous option and has been challenged by Ben Lord (PC Chair)
 - A safer option may be a 5 spur roundabout in place on the existing small 4 exit one.
 - Any access via Crown lane is extremely challenging
- Encourage a healthy life style (walking/cycling) but within a safe living/working space
- High Street traffic calming – use of chicanes
- Restricted/enforcement no parking areas – force drivers off the streets into convenient free parking areas
- Provide a pedestrian bridge from Crown lane over the By-Pass to safely open up the countryside to the East of Ixworth
- Focus on easy access to key locations, easy parking but a strong persuasion to leave vehicles parked and walk/cycle.

Other

- Integrated housing/Amenities/Infrastructure needed to create a model village that would be social care friendly, promote a healthy lifestyle promoting walking/cycling on safe access routes. Provide a local place to work, rest and play that would be a social centre for the young and a place older people can meet up. That amenities are easy to access by car for visitors but they are encouraged to park and stay/sample what extra Ixworth has to offer from sport and green spaces to artisan retail shops and cafes/bistros overlooking the park.

8. Date of the Next Meeting

Tessa Stonehouse (Chair) confirmed the date of the next meeting would be Tuesday 13.03.18 at 7.00pm at Ixworth Village Hall. This would be to finalise the drafting of the Ixworth/Ixworth Thorpe “Vision” statement in conjunction with a Project Plan to enable drafting of the Grant Application.

Actions

NP Clerk to finalise and circulate the meeting minutes and any useful information to Group members in good time before the next meeting

NP Clerk/Adrian Harmer/PC Clerk to work together to enable item 5 to be up and running ASAP

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Signed

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Date