

Barkway Parish Council

Appendix A – To the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 13th August 2019

Notes from Barkway/Nuthampstead NP SG meeting 24th July 2019

Attendees: Bill, Catharine, Elena, Jackie, Julia, Ruth, Sue

Apologies: Mike, Peter

1. Update re Local Plan

The examiner has said that the modifications to the Local Plan need to be substantiated. Several problems were raised with the plan including the fact that the numbers for new housing had been over-estimated by about 2,000, the wrong year had been used for the baseline and the reassessed green belt round Luton and Stevenage had wrongly been stated as moderate benefit rather than considerable. There was nothing specific about the growth villages and these did not form part of the modifications. An estimate of the likely delay to the completion of the Local Plan was a year and it might need to go back to another public consultation.

A query was raised about whether this would delay the NP but, if anything, it would give more importance to getting it done as soon as possible to minimise the impact of hostile development applications. **Action: Ruth to follow up with Jacqueline re the implications of the delay**

2. Planning for LGS, Views & Policies Open Day

- a. Local Green Spaces (LGS) must meet rigorous NPPF criteria e.g. wildlife, community use, historical significance but, if you can justify it, this gives the highest level of protection but you can't have sites allocated as common land, private gardens or arable land.
- b. Priority views give a slightly lower level of protection but can be used to protect sites which don't meet the criteria for a LGS. When considering priority views you need to take into account what you're trying to protect and whether it's at risk. So having views along streets would not generally be advisable.
- c. Julia has produced a list of LGSs (5) and priority views (13) for Nuthampstead. One of the LGSs will probably need to be removed because the landowner has recently padlocked the area so there is no public access. The views all take into account the possible impact of unwanted development
- d. Sue has taken many photos round Barkway. Most do not show Local Green Spaces or priority views but there are some which could potentially be used for this purpose (a few could be used to show design features). **Action: Bill to check where the LGSs and priority views in Barkway should be and see if any extra photos are needed.**
- e. A likely Local Green Space is the forest school site which is adjacent to BK3 and used by schoolchildren for camps etc. so would qualify on the grounds of community use
- f. Bill had a list of possible LGSs but a couple didn't qualify (one was common land, the other private garden (though the latter might be worth checking as LGSs could be at one or more entry points to Barkway, justified on the basis of the setting of the village
- g. Once a full list of Barkway LGSs and views has been compiled, they need to be combined with the Nuthampstead ones and reduced in number (aim is for roughly 6 LGSs and 12 priority views for the whole parish.
- h. Query re whether views over BK3 could be included given the delay in the Local Plan. **Action: Ruth to check with Jacqueline**

3. Grant application update

- a. New grant application has been approved but Catharine needs to do the acceptance part of the processing.

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4. CDA Housing Needs survey feedback
 - a. Housing Needs survey report has been issued.
 - b. Concern because it identifies potential sites for development. **Action: Ruth to follow up with Jacqueline about this**
5. Topic group updates
 - a. Health/leisure
 - i. Julia has had a meeting about the potential community hub. Feedback is that the NP does not need to provide details of how this would work; just to explain the broad terms and show that residents have been consulted and are happy with the proposal. The NP just needs to protect the space to be used for it
 - ii. Meeting arranged with the director of public health on 4th Sep.
 - iii. Could start doing things now for community hub, e.g. setting up automated library
 - iv. Worth including the community hub in next open day – asking residents if they like the idea
 - b. Heritage
 - i. Bill working with history team in Nuthampstead and with a metal detectorist in Barkway
 - ii. Has had feedback from David Starkey which includes some avenues to explore
 - iii. Richard Pike has offered to help (his brother is an archaeologist)
 - c. Housing/transport
 - i. NHDC have declared a climate change emergency so it is worth referencing this in the plan as a justification for sustainability and reduced carbon emissions elements in the plan
 - ii. However, can't go into details of technical aspects as a) these could change and b) you can't override building regulations
 - iii. Elena's feedback from housing and transport meetings has been incorporated in the latest version of the draft NP – she needs to check if the updates look OK
 - iv. Elena raised concerns about the amount and speed of traffic through the High Street. Queried whether a 20mph limit could be imposed but, although this will be investigated, it was thought to be unlikely due to the nature and use of the road
6. Updated NP document
 - a. Need to change to include changes suggested by Bill in email. **Action: Ruth to make changes**
 - b. Ruth produced a list of existing policies (without the other content). If we can, these can be shown at the next open day. **Action: All need to check the policies. Action: Ruth to send soft copy of policy-only document**
7. AOB
 - a. Bill asked if it's worth buying a printer to produce all the documents
 - b. Julia declared a conflict of interest because properties she owns are included in some views
8. Next meeting will be on Wednesday 21st August

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