

South Leverton NP Steering Group Meeting

Monday 12th March '18

Agenda

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Brief Overview of NP Process
- 3 Structure of NP Steering Group
- 4 Funding & Professional Support
- 5 1st Step - Public Engagement
- 6 NP market Place Event
- 7 AOB
- 8 Date of Next Meeting

Discussion

1 Welcome

Apologies were given for rearrangement of this meeting at short notice. Unfortunately, this may have resulted in a number of interested residents not being able to attend. Presently there were some +20 residents who it was understood remained interested in being members of the Steering Group. It was therefore disappointing that only 7 residents were welcomed to this initial meeting. It is to be hoped that numbers will increase for the next meeting. Luke Brown from BDC NP team was welcomed, who confirmed that he and his colleague Will Wilson would be available to support SL residents in the preparation of their NP, including attending all meetings.

The remainder of the discussion was led by Luke.

2 Overview of the NP Process

Overall determination was initiated from national government through BDC to the local community. A mandatory requirement was that a NP was prepared by community residents who formed the local steering group. Members of the public were to be welcomed to participate in meetings but project decisions were to be taken by the steering group members. It was important that the NP reflected the wishes of the public in determining the development of their village. A current requirement was that a NP must be site specific for developments and submitted to BDC planning authority with sufficient detail for review as a legal planning proposal document. In this regard guidance was available from the BDC NP team, along with funding to obtain professional expert advice.

BDC are presently continuing the development of their local housing plan. They are under severe pressure from national government to build more houses. Hence BDC are very keen for every village in Bassetlaw to develop a NP to complement their local plan, which incorporates villages into clusters. In the case of SL, the cluster includes 10 villages ranging from North Wheatley to Laneham. BDC envisage housing developments local to North Leverton which has a suitable infrastructure including a primary school, doctors practice, post office, retail shop, play area, and a garage. BDC NP team are advising all NPs are prepared on the basis of a 20% increase in village housing over the

subsequent 15 years period as this would be in accordance with the maximum allocation in the BDC local plan. This approach should ensure that village residents are in control of all future housing developments. It is however recognised that it is not always practical to incorporate 20% increase in village housing.

3 Structure of the SL Steering Group

The function of the Steering Group is to establish the contents, prepare and write, and successfully complete the NP. In order to manage this process, it is necessary for the steering group to have a formal structure including a chair person, secretary, and a treasurer. In addition, each member would be requested to sign Terms of Reference which are basically intended to protect the steering group from conflicts of interest, for example, residents who wish to become members of the steering group whilst intending to develop housing on their land within the NP. Representative Terms of Reference will be circulated by Luke, for consideration and amendment if considered necessary as appropriate for SL.

Action: Luke Brown

It was not necessary to make the various appointments at this time, particularly as it was understood there would be other residents interested to join the Steering Group, who may wish to be considered for one of the positions.

Steering Group membership could typically vary from 7 to 20 residents. The size of the group could determine how the group operated. In a large group it would be possible to allocate activities into sub groups, each bringing their findings to the overall group for agreement. For a small group the members would tend to act as one team to carry out each activity.

4 Funding & Professional Support

It is very important that the completed NP presents as a well written document which would withstand legal and technical scrutiny. The BDC NP team will assist, but also it is advisable to engage professional consultants to guide the Steering Group in their NP preparation. Funding up to £15K was available in this regard. This funding was also available to cover all expenses associated with the preparation of the NP, such as stationary, presentation materials, hire of meeting venues, catering.

The BDC NP have available application forms for funding and would assist in their completion.

From the date of approval funding would be available to spend for the subsequent 6 months. The present government has committed funding to the end of the present parliament.

5 Next Step – Public Engagement

Ultimately the completed NP, following approval by BDC, is subject to a village public referendum.

It is therefore advisable to engage with village residents throughout the NP process. The NP will typically address a variety of potential developments as well as housing. An initial survey of village residents, will provide ideas to investigate for development, including opinions with regard to the number and type of housing. Also, engagement is essential with landowners that are interested in allowing housing developments on their property. BDC have completed their survey in regard to such landowners and are able to provide the list of landowners who have expressed interest in developing their land in SL.

Action: Luke Brown

Various means of engaging with residents were discussed, including leaflets, wine & cheese evenings, door to door discussions. Members are requested to give these ideas more consideration to enable the Steering Group to agree a POA at the next meeting.

Action: All present

6 NP Market Place Event – 5.30pm Thursday Evening 15th March in Retford Town Hall

The BDC NP team were planning on this event for associated Steering Groups in Bassetlaw to establish a networking opportunity to exhibit and discuss development of NPs. It was thought to be of particular interest to those groups such as SL who were at the initial stages of preparing their NPs. A pie and pea supper would be available. At least 3 members present from SL were interested to attend. Comments on the event to be circulated for future reference. **Action: SL visitors to the event**

7 AOB

It was agreed that the notes from this meeting would be emailed to all village residents who had previously expressed interest in being members with a cordial invitation to attend the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

Typical frequency of meetings was once a month. The next meeting was agreed to be Thursday 19th April at 6.30pm. Availability of the village hall to be confirmed.