



Minutes of Meeting

Meeting Held: Village Hall, 12 September 2016

Distribution: Those present, the Parish Council, Parish Council website

Introduction

Mathew Chinn, Chairman, outlined the agenda and objectives of the meeting.

Apologies for absence were recorded for Jean Loughlan, Fred Flower, Chris Toye & Paula Stuart.

The minutes for the meeting of 10 August 2016 were approved.

Declarations of interest were requested and none were raised.

Presentation by Sherington Councillors

Councillors Will Bush and Anita Thatcher gave a presentation sharing their knowledge and experiences of creating a Neighbourhood Plan. The Sherington Plan is in the final stages and they hope soon to have it adopted by Milton Keynes Council as a live, official document.

The presentation was useful, outlining the content of their neighbourhood plan, the process they used to develop it, the pitfalls, successes and lessons learned. Several questions were asked by attendees. Points of general interest included:

- A significant development was awarded planning permission in the village whilst the plan was in its infancy. Had the plan been more complete they could have stopped it or influenced it more.
- When Milton Keynes Council state that they need an area to take a number of houses, one or two new houses on a small plot do not count towards the number. Small developments are classed as “infill”, only developments of three houses or more are counted by the council.
- It was advised that we develop a vision and mission for the village with input from as many residents and stakeholders as possible. The questions to be answered include:
 - What is important to preserve the character of North Crawley?
 - What attracted you to the village?
 - What amenities are important to be maintained or developed?
 - What development(s) do you think would improve or ruin the village?
- Areas and buildings that are important to the residents (Kilpin Green? The High Street? The Waste Ground?) can be defined as protected assets in the plan.
- There is a lot of work to create a Neighbourhood Plan and several volunteers were lost through being bogged down in the details. It is better to use smaller groups to complete sections of work before reporting back to the steering group.
- Once adopted, the Neighbourhood Plan becomes planning law for the period of the plan. For Sherington this is until 2031.
- Consultants will be required to put the plan in official language and to ensure that it is compliant with local and national policies. It was advised not to use consultants too early. The Neighbourhood Plan should be outlined and developed by residents and consultants should only be used for specialist tasks. Plenty of expertise and assistance is offered by Milton Keynes Council.
- The total cost of developing the Sherington Neighbourhood Plan was £14,000 raised partly from council grants and the rest from the Parish Council.



How effective are Neighbourhood Plans?

By defining our village, specifying what is important to us, identifying areas for limited development and encouraging developments that will maintain and improve the village we can use the North Crawley Neighbourhood Development Plan to protect the feel and experience of living in the parish.

Two questions arose and taken by EP as an action to find the answer before the next meeting; what are the statistics for Neighbourhood Plans in challenging uncontrolled development and what is the definition of a village?

Approve Terms of Reference

The Steering Group Terms of Reference were adopted and are available to view on the Parish Council Website

Date of the Next Meeting

The next steering group meeting will be held on Monday, 17th October at 7:30 pm in the village hall. From now on meetings will take place in the Village Hall on the third Monday of each month.