

Membury Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan

MINUTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER 2014 AT THE MEETING PLACE AT 4.00

Present: Alex, Beryl, Heather, Sam, John, Jeremy, Jason, Nick

1. Apologies for Absence: Mark Burrough

2. Administration

Axminster Neighbourhood Plan

There is a meeting on the 18th September at 6.00 p.m. and two members of our Steering Group had been invited to attend. It was agreed that we would email our comments. We depend on services in Axminster such as Police, Doctors' Surgery, Hospital, Roads etc.

Neighbourhood Plan Seminar to be held on 22nd September between 1 and 6 p.m. This is the promised meeting at EDDC offices Knowle led by Claire Rodway and introducing the new Planning Officer responsible for NP and which gathers together all the parishes in the process or about to embark upon NP's. It should offer a chance to meet good contacts and help us when it comes to negotiating our plan with EDDC. We have 3 places allocated to us but other than Alex no one else was able or prepared to attend. [Later, Nick agreed to attend should he get back in time.]

3. Aims and Objectives - how we intend to move forward.

- a) What should we be doing to organise the next public meeting.
- b) How our plan looks
- c) Are there any formal responses we need
- d) Do we get in touch with Martin Parkes regarding the summary he gave us.

It was agreed that we should be able to pull together our own statement of what our vision should be.

We could hold workshops to formulate the vision statement but after some discussion we agreed that it would be "To maintain and enhance the unique character and sense of community within Membury Parish whilst permitting small scale sustainable growth that is in line with the needs and wishes of the community." Our Village Design Statement covered most of the Landscape and Built Environment issues but needed updating.

There were many responses asking for better broadband and mobile phone signal but, other than the visual aspect of a radio mast and the support of business/ employment neither were issues we could address. We should ask that the Parish Council maintains an awareness of what is possible and ensures that the parish has the best available service.

4. Energy and Low Carbon

A discussion was held on the feasibility of Solar Panels, Hydro Power and energy resources that would have the least impact on the village. It was decided that this issue be discussed by a separate Steering Group meeting.

5. Economy & Employment

Basically the villagers want better broadband and mobile reception. John pointed out that out of 145 responses, 53 plus 69 (122) said yes they would accept visual intrusion.

Regarding light industrial units, viability of outbuildings being turned into housing etc., it was felt that we should have further discussions as we need more details to investigate. It was suggested that this be the topic for the next meeting.

6. Housing Needs Survey

We need to ascertain the requirements for accommodation that most villagers would like to see and we need to ask in October the range of options - conversions, flats, houses, wooden cabins etc.

At the next exhibition we should show villagers what has been analysed and then ask if our conclusions are correct. It was agreed to wait for the results of the housing survey before further discussion.

7. Date of next Exhibition:- 17th and 18th October

8. Time, Date and Place of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 24th October, 2014 at 4. 00 p.m. at The Meeting Place