

Austrey Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Committee

Minutes of meeting held June 20th 2023 at Austrey Village Hall 6pm.

Present: Sam Goldney-Neate, Louise Kirkwell, Rose McGrath, Neil Hayward, Pete Yates, Elaine Horton. **Apologies:** Luke Baxter

Note – EH had recorded Terry Webb email incorrectly so he was not aware of the meeting. Error has now been corrected and TGW to be sent previous minutes.

It was agreed that this meeting would focus specifically on two things – the village wide consultation questionnaire, and the amendments so far on the NDP document.

Consultation

There were 45 respondents to the questionnaire, which was agreed to be a good result.

SGN shared the anonymised results.

Main takeaways from the survey: responses were overwhelmingly positive and supportive. Things people commented on included: Bishops Field, local fields, old buildings, meadows, woodland (especially the one adjacent to Cinder Lane), the churchyard, Cinder Lane, Salt St, trees, green space, views, livestock fields and the grass verge opposite the post office.

One respondent commented on how important green space is for mental health.

Another commented on the area earmarked for HS2 – while HS2 Phase 2B is still officially planned, currently the government has not instructed HS2 Ltd nor has a hybrid bill for development been submitted to Parliament for this section (as per information from HS2 dated 14 Feb 2023).

The woodland adjacent to Cinder Lane was mentioned by several respondents. It was noted that while some woodland there might be protected (commonly known as the Fairy Woods) the plantation cannot be, as it is deemed to be a crop.

Miscellaneous other things mentioned by respondents were the phone box (which is listed), the view from the pub to the church, the view down to Austrey Meadows, and the new green space included in Wulfric Ave development.

Many people were concerned about removal of hedgerows.

In terms of diversification - one respondent suggested farm shops, others said solar farms were acceptable, along with wind farms. LK noted that there is currently a government moratorium regarding onshore wind farms but this will likely change in the future. **At the current time they need to show local community support for planning permission.**

Design codes – people like the idea of them, both in terms of the type and style of housing needed and also that small houses and starter homes might keep the big developers away.

PY asked if the NDP could include Bishops Field as a stand-alone item re Local Green Space, and has prepared a document to support this. LK advised that when the plan goes to the examiner this issue will be considered even if it is a large tract of land. It was agreed that Bishops Field is part of the area under discussion, at the bottom it is known as Clements Fields. In this area a local landowner had previously obtained planning permission for a stable block but this permission is understood to have since lapsed. All agreed Bishops Field is a vital asset to protect, and will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

Amendments to the NDP

LK and RM have been working on the amendments. In the working document, new/additional content is in blue, black is existing and remains in the new document, red is to be deleted. LK retains the copy with original amendments, an amended copy showing where changes have been made, and eventually a finished document which will be submitted. This way there is a detailed tracking of the changes made.

SGN to place NDP Review folder on the Parish Council website for residents to see current changes and status. Noted that this will need regular updating. This information will include meeting dates (public are welcome to attend), minutes, design codes, background info, folders to show changes and compare with old NDP. LK advised that when the revised NDP goes to formal consultation, all documents need to be publicly available on the PC website.

A better map of the parish is needed for the new NDP, EH to contact NWBC for a jpeg. LK advised ~~we are clear for use and~~ Kirkwells can prepare digital mapping to show things like Views and Local Green Spaces subject to ~~copyright~~ Ordnance Survey licence. LK asked for confirmation from NWBC of the original designation date (2014?) EH to contact NWBC.

Page 10.4 – re local employment opportunities – while there is not much in the village, there is potential at the new warehouse site at J11 M42. PY to write something re this for next meeting.

Page 11.7 and 13.5 - 'Sense of community'. Discussed good things that happen in the village – street parties, all the many activities that are supported by the village. Lunch club in the VH, youth club at the school, clubs and associations in the VH including WI, Austrey Belles, walking group, art group, and many others. Photos to support all these would be good to include in the NDP to show how vibrant and active a community Austrey is. RM and NH to update to include all the above and any others not mentioned at the meeting.

Page 18 – current table of local green spaces to be updated, including short statement for justification of each location against the criteria in the table. Photos to be taken of views already mentioned, with new descriptions. SGN volunteered her son Dan.

'Listing' assets of Community Value

These will be discussed at next meeting, but will likely include pub, shop and VH, but other ideas may emerge. EH has information from NWBC and WCC re this, also wildlife surveys, to be shared at future meeting.

Next meeting - Set for Tues 18 July at 7pm.