

Appendix 2

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 30 OCTOBER 2018

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

- Our last meeting was again dominated by owners of land being considered for designation as Local Green Space raising concerns over the nomination, consultation and assessment process.
- We have made some progress with the Group agreeing that most of the nominated privately-owned sites are unlikely to meet the NPPF criteria.
- Our next meeting on 14 November will be focussed on assessing the three remaining privately-owned sites – those with the highest level of support at the Community Consultation Day - the existing Important Open Spaces.
- It is essential that this and future meetings are carried out in a more positive, balanced and understanding manner. If matters continue as they have been, then I believe the whole Neighbourhood Plan is under threat. A cynic would say that this has been the objective of some of the landowners all along.
- I have apologised to the landowners for the poor level of communication regarding the LGS assessment process, the length of time it has taken, and the associated distress this has caused.
- However, I believe the process itself to be sound and, instead of allowing it to reach its conclusion and judge the Group by its ultimate decisions, a lot of time and resource has been wasted dealing with a co-ordinated effort to question every aspect of the Group's work and attack its integrity, often with baseless accusations. Some of these accusations have tainted the Group, been offensive and, even when proven incorrect, have not been apologised for.
- I also know some members of the Group have felt bullied and intimidated by landowners in recent meetings, with their views being dismissed or ignored and individuals often shown a complete lack of respect.
- I don't think the volunteers in this Group, including myself, who have worked hard for a number of years to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan is based on objective evidence and led by the whole community, rather than a small self-interested part of it, can be expected to continue working on this project if this unacceptable atmosphere continues.