

Neighbourhood Plan meeting for Stretton under Fosse

Minutes of Meeting

Held on Monday 4th June 2018 at 8:00pm

In the Stretton under Fosse Village Hall

- Present** Terry Smith (Chairman); Sue Hartshorn, Mark Daniell and Nigel Jennett (Councillors); Kiley Brown (Clerk); Liz Collins, David Collins, John Dale, Mike Frith, Jane Jennett, Tracy Darke, Paul Morgan, and Chris Smith (members of the public)
- Apologies** Jenny Ogden (Councillor)

This meeting was preceded by the Annual Parish meeting. Nigel opened the Neighbourhood planning meeting and covered the following areas:

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

- The Localism Act 2011 introduced new powers for people to make neighbourhood plans, with reduced interference from central Government
- Document to assist planning decisions (land use)
- Document which outlines community aspirations
- Created and endorsed by the local community
- Has significant weight and has to be considered when assessing planning applications
- Forms part of the statutory Development Plan
- Neighbourhood Planning and how it relates to the Local Plan including control and access

What can a Neighbourhood Plan include?

- A description of who we are, what we value and what we want to happen in the future
- Clear objectives that planners and developers should address
- Policies –i.e. agreed ways to achieve the objectives
- Explanatory text-to explain the local view and support the policies
- Maps, plans, photos and appraisals providing support and evidence
- Our current Parish Plan could act as a starting point
- Use of roads, speed, use of land etc

What sort of policies can a plan set?

- Housing and employment allocations – an agreed housing mix to meet community needs
- Protecting important community facilities& promoting new ones
- Protecting open spaces, playing fields and local greenspace
- Drainage and flood prevention
- High quality design and conservation of historical assets
- Protecting allotments and promoting new growing space
- Renewable energy and minerals extraction
- Identification and protection of valued landscapes, local green space and community assets
- Anything that the community wishes to achieve concerning land use, infrastructure, facilities, roads and transport

Government incentive: Communities that take a proactive approach by drawing up a neighbourhood plan or Order and secure the consent of local people in a referendum, will benefit from 25% of the revenues from the Community Infrastructure Levy arising from the development that takes place in their area.

Why is Neighbourhood planning important?

New planning rules about getting new homes built each year and there are exceptions that are coming in and overtaking spaces where locals have very little say in the matter. If there is a Neighbourhood Plan the Government has to consider it. If they don't have a plan then speculative applications can be made with very little input from local residents.

There were a number of questions and concerns raised during the meeting:

Q: Where is the money coming from for the grant? Is this another increase in tax to the local residents?

A: No, this money has already been allocated from previous tax budgets and any increase in taxes will not come directly from this process. Also it was noted that any additional tax for development is taken from the developer so the local community can financially benefit from building that takes place – planning permission permitted.

Q: What was achieved in the past 10 years from the Parish Plan?

A: There was very little information on this available. The members of the public that were present answered as best they could and informed everyone that it was a very difficult process to achieve the Parish Plan and there was very little support from the overall Parish residents with only a few pushing to achieve the document. As such, there was similar interest in the development and goals that were set out in the document.

Q: Why do we feel this is important if there is no current mention of Stretton under Fosse in the Local Plan and we are surrounded by greenbelt? If the Local Plan isn't planning to change in the next 10 years then why should we be so concerned?

A: We are currently vulnerable and open to applications with very little say in planning. Some people agree that we are being overly concerned and this has been noted.