

## **Notes of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting 16.00-17.00 Thursday 4th February, 2016**

**Present:** Liz Sanders, Michael Haley, Alf Dewis, David Salkeld, Ann Lewis, Frank Payne, John Nowell, Oliver Bird, Paul Dowse, Michael Hinman, Christopher Clark

**Apologies:** Maureen Burns-Jones

**Resignation:** Peter Jones

**Update on the Egleton meeting:** As arranged, Michael, Frank and Liz met with Egleton Parish Meeting, which had a positive outcome. Egleton was pleased to have input and did not foresee any problems with their boundary inclusion in Oakham's NP.

**Barleythorpe Forum and Oakham's NP Application:** RCC requires a response, outlining our combined NP (as opposed to plan which excludes Barleythorpe). An agreed response must be with the meeting of OTC by 10th February before it is sent on to RCC for approval. Three draft responses were sent out in advance for discussion at this meeting. Given that Barleythorpe intends to apply for its own Forum and subsequently its own NP, the Steering Group stressed the strengths of a combined approach, allowing for joint discussion and having representatives from Barleythorpe on board (already we have Frank). All agreed drafts 2 and 3 contained strong points which, after careful editing, could provide a response for RCC who will ultimately decide in planning terms whether a combined or separate NPs are granted. Alf, Liz and Michael to re-draft.

**Plans - next steps:** distribution of Liz's 'Route Map' spreadsheet which outlines the coming year's tasks, targets, deadlines etc. In the imminent consultation period Liz suggested that, before we can structure a NP, the focus should be on a press release, communication and formation of working groups to access information about successful NPs, shared good practice, and other relevant issues - planning, commercial, environmental etc. (Christopher recommended a look at Hexham's NP - similar in size to Oakham etc.) Future meetings will include briefings from outside bodies who can offer insights into how best to proceed. Priority areas, organisations and speakers to be suggested by the SG in a circulated email to follow. Alf suggested for our next meeting Ron Simpson of the Uppingham NP should attend and speak - confirmation to follow. Alf also distributed Planning Aid England's helpful, 'How to Structure Your Neighbourhood Plan' and the document which he has drawn up about the NP for the OTC meeting on 10th February. Paul emphasised the need for a website, shared information sites for public information and the possibility of a virtual office - OTC funds for this. To further this, Paul, John and Christopher are meeting at Paul's address on Monday 8th February.

**Publicity:** deferred.

**Next meeting:** dates, dependent on Ron Simpson's availability, were offered - Monday 15th February at 16.00 or 19.00 or Tuesday 16th February at 19.00.

The meeting ended at 17.05.