

Barrowden and Wakerley Neighbourhood Planning Group Report to Barrowden Parish Council November 2015

Progress to Date

The Neighbourhood Planning Group (NPG) organised a Consultation Event for residents of Barrowden and Wakerley at the end of September in order to understand their views on a series of topics relating to the future physical development of the villages. The topics were

- Land Use and Housing Development
- Roads and Transport
- Our surroundings
- Conservation
- Recreation and Children's Facilities
- Health and Welfare
- Utilities
- Rural Economy and Security
- Community Right to Bid
- What you like about or would improve in the villages

The Event was a great success with over 100 residents attending one of the two sessions that were held. Residents were invited to write their comments on "Post-It" notes on each of the topics. Over 500 comments were received and have been analysed to produce a short list of the Issues where residents have expressed views.

Some of the Issues raised do not fall under the auspices of the Neighbourhood Plan and/or can be dealt with in the short term without waiting for the outcome of the Plan. These Issues which cover areas such as telephone and broadband performance, surface drainage water flooding, village car parking, concerns over the surgery, Community Right to Bid, etc., will be passed to the Parish Council for their consideration and action with the relevant body as appropriate.

The Next Steps

For those residents who were unable to attend the Events, a copy of the storyboards for the 10 topics have been placed on the Parish Council website inviting their comments. Also a hard copy of the storyboards has been placed in the Community Shop for those who do not use the Internet. Comments are invited before the end of November.

The "Issues", which were raised by the residents relevant to the Plan, will be developed along with other planning matters into a Questionnaire to be circulated to all households. The detail of the questions will attempt to flesh out residents' views on potential solutions and the strength of feeling on the "Options" for the community.

Each member of the NPG has been given a topic against which they will develop a series of questions. The first draft of questions will be reviewed at the next NPG meeting planned for 2nd December with the objective of completing the Questionnaire by mid January 2016 for circulation to residents.

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Funding

The NPG appreciates the financial support provided by the Parish Council for the initial work of the Group. To date, of the £300 provided, £xxx was spent on setting up and running the two Consultation Events. Display boards were gratefully provided free of charge by Ketton Primary School and East Northants DC. Rutland CC printed the flyer which advertised the Event.

Further expenditure will occur with the Questionnaire, costs for which will be better known when the final draft is available. An application for funding to the government fund for Neighbourhood Plans will be made to support the on-going work.

Matters affecting the Progress of the Plan

The Rutland County Core Development Strategy was adopted in 2011 and the County Council is carrying out a review of its Local Plan in order to extend the time period to 2036 and to replace a number of existing development plan documents with a single local plan.

Unfortunately this works coincides with the B & W Neighbourhood Plan process. There will be three documents issued for consultation by Rutland CC namely

1. [Call for Sites Public Notice - September 2015](#)
2. [Sustainability of Settlements Assessment - October 2015](#)
3. [Report No. 189/2015 Appendix A Local Plan Review Issues and Options consultation document, item 306](#)

The consultation on the Call for Sites will end on 7th November and while there is no direct request for sites in the Smaller Service Centres like Barrowden, they have not been specifically excluded.

The matter is complicated by the Settlements Assessments that will form part of the evidence base for the Local Plan Review and in particular inform the Rutland CC Issues and Options consultation document to be issued in November. It identifies the most sustainable settlements based on their level of key facilities and other services, access to employment opportunities and accessibility to higher order centres such as Oakham, Uppingham, Melton and Stamford, and Leicester. Unfortunately there are serious errors in the assessment of Barrowden suggesting that it not only has a full Post Office but also a part time Post Office and a General Medical Practice.

The Rutland CC Issues and Options Paper will be published for consultation starting in mid-November and closing mid-January. The choice for Barrowden as a Smaller Service Centre will be to either agree a specific number of developments over the period to 2036 as part of its Plan or not have a Plan and accept that there will be developments allocated by Rutland CC from the overall figure which must be accommodated across Smaller Service Centres and Small Villages.

Discussions with Rutland CC are planned to identify the impact of their Issues and Options paper.