

## **Neighbourhood Planning Group**

### **Report to Barrowden Parish Council February 2017**

The NPG has carried out a tender process to select a Consultant to assist with the evaluation of the draft plan to ensure that the plan is in general conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework, the Rutland Local Plan and the results of the Village Questionnaire held in early 2016. Seven companies were approached and four tenders were returned.

While all those who submitted tenders could carry out the required work, there was a large variation between the quality of the tenders, the skills and experience of those who would carry out the work and the costs proposed which ranged from just over £1100 to £4500. All the bids estimated similar timescales for completion of the work. The bids were evaluated by a sub-group of the NPG and it was agreed that a potential candidate should be called forward for an interview with five members of the Group to ensure that his capability was in line with the requirements of the tender and that the costs were correctly calculated.

The sub-group recommended Mike Haybyrne who came across very well with an excellent knowledge of Planning Policy from his 33 years of service at Wellingborough Borough Council. Since he left them he has been working on Neighbourhood Plans in Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire as well as part time on the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit which prepared the Local Plan adopted in 2016 covering Wakerley.

The sub-group were impressed by the fact that he had prepared well for the meeting with a series of quite detailed and very sensible questions about the draft plan and also gave some advice about questions which should be asked of Rutland CC. References were taken from two Parish Councils who had used Mike in the preparation of their plans and both were very positive. The costs quoted were the lowest of the 4 tenders.

Following that interview the NPG accepted the recommendation of the sub-group to apply to Locality for a Grant of £1600 out of a maximum of £9000 of which £1150 would be available for Consultancy work and £350 to carry out a consultation with residents of Wakerley and Barrowden on key Issues and Options.

The grant was approved, less a contingency figure of £75 which had been included, and has been received by the Parish Council following due diligence carried out by Groundwork who handle the grant money on behalf of the Department of Communities and Local Government. Approval will be sought for the Parish Council to appoint Mike Haybyrne of Wellingborough to carry out the Consultancy work as specified in the tender document which is on the NPG website.

Approval will also be sought for expenditure of up to £350 for the printing of flyers and two consultation events to be held with the community in the Village Hall on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017. The NPG is meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February to finalise the specifics of that expenditure.