

Barrowden & Wakerley Neighbourhood Plan

Annual Report April 2017 - March 2018

The primary task in April was to consider the analysis of our first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan provided by the external consultant. This included specific advice on how we might ensure that the Plan would meet the Basic Conditions requirement and where further evidence may be required to support the assertions in the Plan.

Additional work was also required to incorporate detail from the Village Design Statement into the Plan so as to include Wakerley. Along the same thought process a Valley Landscape Assessment should be carried out as part of the evidence. Lastly the Neighbourhood Plan Group (NPG) felt that there would be a benefit to use an external consultant to finalise the wording of the Plan and Policies in conjunction with the evidence base.

Our second task was to compile the results from the March Issues and Options Consultation Event. These were published in the May edition of the Barrowden and Wakerley Parish Magazine. Other comments and a full set of supporting information was placed on our website.

At the April Business meeting colleagues raised concerns about having clear direction going forward and the extent of work still required to reach the next stage (Pre-submission). It was also noted that the process had become much more complicated due to the higher standard set by the independent Examiners over the last seven years. The level of detail with the policies was seen to be vital so that they cannot be misinterpreted by developers.

2.

The NPG met informally to discuss matters and the following actions were agreed for the improvement of the Plan:-

- write a Character and Landscape Assessment for the two villages
- review and revise the Development section
- prepare an invitation to tender for external support to professionally write the pre-submission version of the Plan supported by funding from Locality
- revise the Environment section to include the comments made by our consultant
- reschedule the Project plan and circulate to the NPG

Following the General Election the NPG reconvened in July and the subgroups (Landscape & Character assessment, Development) reported on their progress. The Group also revisited and agreed the revised Project Plan. In the August meeting further progress was reported from the sub-groups and news arrived from Rutland County Council that they had produced their Local Draft Plan. As it was out to consultation, Barrowden Parish Council made a formal response on the Local Plan and subsequently received replies to their questions.

Two Business Meetings were held in September when the Landscape & Character Assessment and Development Documents were received. The former was further supported by a comprehensive History Supplement written by Linda Worrall. At the second meeting later in September Version two of the Plan was tabled.

3.

The next stage was to obtain professional expertise in drafting the Pre- submission Plan in order to meet readability for the residents, and inspection acceptability by the examiner.

At the November meeting we received feedback from Rutland County Council which would be addressed when the Consultant starts the Pre-submission version of the Plan. A tender selection process was carried out to select the consultant followed by a funding application to Locality. A meeting with the selected consultant, Mike Haybyrne, was held prior to Christmas with progress being made during January following the receipt of funds. In February he submitted the professional text enabling printing preparations to be made.

On Monday March 5th the NPG will have signed off the Pre-submission Document in preparation to seek endorsements from the Wakerley Village Meeting on March 12th and Barrowden Parish Council on March 14th. Once obtained the project enters a six week consultation process seeking feedback from residents from both villages, stakeholders, landowners and statutory authorities such as Rutland County Council, East Northants District Council, English Heritage and several others. Our next task is to put a process in place to receive and respond to feedback. The journey continues.

On behalf of the NPG thank you for listening to our report.

John Merritt, David Allan, Chris Barrett, Sara Barrett, Gordon Brown,

John Haddon, Colin Dunigan, Stephen Last,

Richard Littlejohns, Trine McDonald, and Jean Mitchell

March 2018