

**Thorpe St Andrew Town Council
Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan meeting
held on 12 June 2017 at 5.30pm**

1 Present:

Mr J Fisher (Chairman)
Mr F Bowe Mr P Clarke Mr S Snelling

Apologies: none

In attendance:

Mr T Foreman (Town Clerk) Dawn Matthews (Committee Officer)
1 member of the public

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

5 OVERVIEW OF CONSULTATION RESULTS

The map used at the public consultation event at the St Georges day celebration was on display showing the areas the public had marked with stickers on the map as: areas for protection, areas for improvement, areas for development and areas for no development. The main concentration of stickers was around protecting the woodland area to the north of the Town. This correlated to the results of the “pompoms” in jars exercise to identify residents’ priorities which had seen the following results:

Protecting open spaces – 30

Improving traffic and transport – 12

Protecting the identity and culture of TSA – 10

Having a say on the types of housing a development needed – 9

Identifying the right sites for development – 9

Impacting on social spaces (community centres and meeting places) – 8

Four questionnaires had also been received but these had not raised any particular issues.

Approximately 2,000 residents had attended the St Georges day event and as a forum for an initial consultation exercise to introduce the concept of the formulation of a neighbourhood plan and get an initial feeling for what resident felt was important, the exercise had been worthwhile and provided a foundation to build on. The area to the north of the Town was seen as the area where most change was likely to occur.

With regard to the next steps, various options for further consultations were put forward including:

- Articles in the TSA News.
- On line questionnaire utilising the Town Council web site, twitter and Facebook.
- Promotional stands at Sainsburys, if possible linking with other organisations such as the Police.
- Survey Monkey – this could either involve utilising the free survey facility or, if the availability of funding was confirmed, members favoured the enhanced survey which for approximately £400 for the year included data analysis which would prove useful.
- the possibility of utilising existing facilities for consultation available at the district/county council.
- Placing questionnaires (black and white) in doctors, dentists, shops, libraries, post offices, council offices etc.

Members felt it was important to try a range of consultation exercises to capture different audiences, bearing in mind some residents might not favour on line methods.

With regard to timescales, Members agreed that if material was available within the next week or so, a 6-week consultation period was ideal, leading to the end of the consultations by 31 July.

6 CONFIRMATION OF ADOPTION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA

Members noted that Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority had approved the application for the Thorpe St Andrew Neighbourhood Area in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

7 CALL FOR SITES RESULTS

Members noted the submission from Bidwells in response to the Thorpe St Andrew Neighbourhood Plan call for sites consultation in respect of land at the corner of Thunder Lane, Whitlingham Lane and Yarmouth Road. It was noted that this site had been considered for development in the past by the Broads Authority and the general response had been that the view from Thunder lane over the site towards the green open space and the river was an important outlook and was one of the only views of the river valley and should be retained. The area was also part of the floodplain but it was possible that some form of appropriately landscaped low-level development which did not impact on the view might be acceptable. It was suggested that the site did lend itself for use as carparking. One of the issues for the Town was that of the lack of carparking and negotiations were ongoing to try and find sites for carparking which included the old Highway's depot. As part of the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Town Council would need to take a view on the submission from Bidwells and members felt it would be helpful to consult the Broads Authority on the submission.

8 FUTURE PLANNING

In response to a question raised about ways in which the Town Council could discourage unwanted development, Members commented that the formulation of the Neighbourhood Plan was a means of helping to protect particular sites from development. There had to be good planning grounds to object to proposed developments, particularly having regard to the current pressure to deliver more housing, and the existence of the plan would help in this respect. The Town Council had been consistent in its objections to the development of some sites in the Town which it felt warranted protection. The woodland area to the north of the Town was one such area and the Town Clerk was currently working with the Friends of Thorpe woods to identify various public rights of way through the woodland to preserve the area for public use.

Date of next meeting – Monday 14 August 2017 at 5:30pm.

The meeting closed at 6.40 pm.

Signed:

Dated:

