

Diss Neighbourhood Plan Meeting

Held on Tuesday 2nd August at 7pm at Diss Youth & Community Centre

Present: Corinne Moore (Scole), Mike Bootman (Palgrave), Paul Curson, David Goldson¹ and Andrew Daniels (Roydon), Alison Wakeham (Burston and Shimpling), Tim Horspole (Growth & Localism Director, SNC), Adam Nicholls (Planning Policy Manager, SNC), David Burn (MSDC Councillor for Palgrave), Graham Minshull¹ (Diss Town Council Leader), Deborah Sarson (Diss Town Clerk)

¹Councillor Goldson is also District member for Roydon and Councillor Minshull is also a District member for Diss.

1. It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) provides an opportunity for the parishes working together to provide a shared and individual vision of how the area should develop. The next step now is to determine the area to which the NP will relate.
2. Working across district and county boundaries will be challenging and may well prove to be a first nationally. It will be necessary to work with both SNC & MSDC. It was noted that the broader benefits of being able to view the area without having to take account of the boundaries will provide a refreshing and unfettered perspective.
3. Each parish was invited to suggest the boundaries that should relate to their parish. All parishes represented proposed that their entire parish boundary area should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan area. Parishes indicated their issues individually:
 - Burston & Shimpling – some small scale development would be acceptable but concern that the Burston Mill site will be redeveloped in future as a brownfield site; the parish would like to manage the quantity and quality of that development
 - Palgrave – currently impacted by out of date Local Plan, lack of 5 year supply, lack of services (ie no shop or pub), rat running, the significant influence of development at Eye; would wish to retain village feel
 - Scole – wishes to co-operate with Diss as a service centre, main issue is lack of sustainable access to Diss (walking/cycling)
 - Roydon – retain individuality
4. Councillor Burn suggested that the parishes of Stuston and Thrandeston should also be invited, especially given that MSDC had assessed these two parishes and Palgrave to be part of a 'Diss cluster' ie they 'look' to Diss for the nearest services. Councillor Burn agreed to contact both parishes on behalf of the group.
5. Key issues that came out during discussion included:
 - Conservation
 - Housing
 - Economy/employment
 - Infrastructure including traffic/transport
 - Retail provision
 - Leisure

- Retain individuality of villages
6. Costs and funding – it was noted that Diss Town Council had estimated a cost of around £20,000 for delivering the NP depending on how much expertise will need to be bought in. It was noted that there will be considerable expertise available in our communities and that there is some funding available through Locality². Other parishes could only be expected to contribute what they can reasonably afford.
 7. Community involvement will be critical and early engagement will help to determine the scope of the plan. Someone to lead on the plan needs to be identified, preferably not from one of the councils. Some form of governance arrangement between the parishes will need to be set up and a lead council needs to be agreed.
 8. Outcome – **all** parish representatives agreed to report back to their parish councils to seek formal agreement for the proposal that their parish up to and including its boundaries is included in the neighbourhood plan area. It would also be useful to propose a lead parish. **Councillor Burn** to approach Thrandeston and Stuston.
 9. A follow up meeting will be arranged for early October after all parishes have next met.

² Post-meeting Notes

- a) Research on Locality (mycommunity.org.uk) shows that any NP group can apply for up to £9,000 but a complex plan (which ours is because it involves more than three parishes and crosses local authority boundaries) would be entitled to up to a further £6,000.
- b) Stuston Parish Meeting and Thrandeston Parish Council are interested in being involved in the NDP.