

NP committee meeting (14th March 2016)

Attending: Keith Williams (KW), Iestyn John (IJ), John Horrocks (JH)

KW provided background as to how the Parish Council (PC) had decided to embark on an NP: East Devon District Council's (EDDC) local plan had designated all of Payhembury as rural and, with the exception of barn conversions under permitted development, no new houses would be allowed (IJ confirmed that this was also his understanding). The PC felt that that was overly restrictive and had been led to believe by Tim Spurway and Philip Skinner that an NP was the only way to address this. The PC also felt that having an NP might assist with lobbying on other topics (e.g. improved broadband) and would generally provide a basis for the PC to make future decisions. The PC was concerned about the potential work involved, but felt that on balance we should proceed.

KW showed previous work which had been done in Payhembury in terms of the development of the parish plan in the early 2000's and the SHLAA process around 5 years ago. IJ confirmed that the NP is different in that it forms a legal basis for planning and hence needs to be approved by an inspector and by the residents of Payhembury in a referendum (>50% of those voting need to approve). KW showed Broadhembury's NP and indicated how much more substantial it was than the old parish plan/SHLAA. IJ indicated that NP's did not need to be as long as Broadhembury's and there was no need to repeat information which is in EDDC's local plan.

Action 1: IJ to circulate example NP's.

All agreed that the first main (and probably most important) stage in the process was the development of the evidence base and much of this would need to be through a questionnaire. KW showed Broadhembury's questionnaire which had clearly been developed by consultants.

Action 2: KW to ask clerk to investigate whether EDDC recommended particular companies for developing the survey.

JH asked whether the PC had a budget for the NP and whether the precept had been raised to account for this. KW said that the PC expected that the NP would be completely funded through grants and that the PC was not intending to use any of its precept for the process.

Bob Nelson (Broadhembury PC) had offered to talk to local PC's embarking on the process. All felt that a meeting to discuss their experiences would be valuable.

Action 3: KW to set up a meeting with Bob Nelson.

JH indicated that community engagement is key and we should take care to record all engagement activities. KW said that the first opportunity was the Community Fair on 23rd April.