

## TWYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a public meeting for the Neighbourhood Plan held at Loddon Hall, Twyford on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 at 7:30pm.

**Present:** Mr C Wickenden (Chairman), Mrs B Ditcham, Mrs E Ashley, Mrs T Ramsden, Messer's R Mantel, M Alder & M Bray.

**Borough Councillors Present:** Cllr. L Ferris, Cllr. J Jarvis & Cllr. W Smith.

**Members of the Public Present:** 35

**Minutes:** Lynn Povey (Assistant Clerk)

**1. Welcome and introduction** – Mr R Mantel (Chairman of Twyford Parish Council) welcomed everyone to the meeting introducing the Parish Councillors, the Borough Councillors and the Clerk in attendance. Mr Mantel spoke about the Village Plan created by Berkshire County Council in 1974 and subsequent plans. Highlighting the opportunity for the village to set up a Neighbourhood Plan now to be able to have a say going forward.

**2. Speaker re: Wokingham Local Plan** – Mr C Wickenden introduced:

**Cllr. W Smith** – Cllr Smith outlined that in 2016 there was a call for sites by the Borough where landowners were invited to put their land up for sale with the view of being built upon. Since then, WBC have found accommodation for around 3000 dwellings out of 290 sites offered. Three local areas affected are Ruscombe, Grazeley and Barkham. Cllr Smith concluded by saying time is of the essence & a wide selection of volunteers with different skill sets are needed to help with the safeguarding of Twyford.

**Cllr. J Jarvis** – Cllr Jarvis looked at things as a planning committee member at Wokingham Borough Council. He said there are strict laws, policies and procedures that need to be followed. The Neighbourhood Plan needs volunteers to sit down and work through WBC Planning Policies and adapt them to suit the needs of Twyford. The main key is that residents are more important than the Parish Councillors – your help is needed.

**Cllr. L Ferris** – Cllr Ferris stated the most important issue is that if we do not take advantage of starting a Neighbourhood Plan then potentially we could be faced with thousands of new houses all over the village.

- Faceless people deciding how many houses Twyford can accommodate.
- Developers are abusing the system so if the Borough Council drops below their targets, the developers submit an application which is more often than not approved.
- We as a community need to work together to try to influence what happens in Twyford.

**3. Introduction to NP – why it's useful** – Mr C Wickenden spoke about creating a group supported and driven by the Parish Council. It's an opportunity for the residents to be involved providing their vision of Twyford in the future. Mr Wickenden explained that it's not just about stopping development but working with the Borough Council, Schools, Clubs, Businesses, Doctors etc to get the most out of Twyford and helping it to thrive for generations to come.

1 member of the public left the meeting at 20.20

**4. Neighbourhood Planning Film** – 2-minute film on Neighbourhood Planning.

**5. Presentation on NP** – Twyford Neighbourhood Plan, Getting Started.

**6. Questions**

- Referendum, what happens if people choose 'NO'?
  - We go back to the beginning and find out why the residents didn't want to have a Neighbourhood Plan.
- What percentage of people are needed to qualify as a legal referendum?
  - Unsure of answer but will aim to be able to clarify by the next meeting.
- Are you going to try to hold a referendum alongside a General Election?
  - This is a possibility but depends how far we are in the process.
- How is the referendum to be held?
  - As with any vote at a Polling Station & via Postal Votes.

- How are the groups decided?
    - Depends on the support of residents.
  - Social Media
    - We will aim to follow all platforms to gain interest from all generations.
    - We will investigate creating a #tag.
    - Not sure about online voting (legality wise) but will look into as an option.
  - Is this group non-political?
    - It is and will be a non-party political group/committee.
  - If people are not online, how are you going to keep people up to date?
    - We use our noticeboards, RG10 magazine and local newspapers.
  - What about the views of the younger generation – Will this or could this be open to 16-year olds?
    - Although this will not be open to 16-year olds legally, we could ask schools such as The Piggott School to find out the views of the students.
  - Have the Council thought about what is needed? How many houses & where?
    - We need to establish what local demands are.
  - Has the Council pre-judged the outcome?
    - No, our outcome is derived by the residents.
7. **Call for Volunteers** – Registration of interested residents.
8. **Date of next meeting – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018 (Twyford Room, Loddon Hall at 19.30)**

**Meeting Closed at 20.41**