

## Cople Neighbourhood Plan Group

Minutes of First meeting, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 20:00

Cople Village Hall

Present: Lesley Cole, Steve Halton, Judith Howard, John Peck, Ged Peeke, Del Armitage, Jeanne Pope (observer, Parish Clerk).

Apols: Catherine Bayliss, Revd. Fiona Gibson

- LC welcomed the group to the first meeting and introduced everyone. The basic principles and processes of producing a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) were discussed and how it needs to 'fit' with the Bedford Borough Council (BBC) Local Plan 2032. The aim of the group is to **'produce a Neighbourhood Plan that fits and takes account of the needs of Cople and its local community'**. All agreed that we should develop a NP.
- GP mentioned the East-West Rail Link and that it will, at some time in the future, probably impact on the village.
- BBC will be doing another 'call for sites' soon and we can suggest what, and where, sites that could be allocated (working with local landowners).
- One of the first priorities is to send out a questionnaire to all residents with some appropriate, simple questions that can be answered with Yes/No answers. BRCC can help advise on this.
- A programme of steps to be followed was discussed and these will include; tasks to be undertaken at each stage; the resources needed; the time each stage will take, and the order in which tasks need to be carried out. JP offered to help develop this.
- **An audit trail will be needed for all our work, consultations/emails/finance/documents etc.**
- Financial resources will be needed and we will need to apply for funding; this will cover items such as publicity, materials, consultants, website etc.
- We need a community consultation event before the call for sites is made. BRCC should be able to help with this.
- A Facebook page was also discussed – it was felt that this would be a positive and innovative project to do and it would help engage with younger people. We would need someone to help develop this.
- We need to somehow involve the village school and JH will be the link for this.
- It was felt that a Green Infrastructure Plan should also be produced alongside the NP (BRCC can do this) – funding will be needed.
- Fiona Gibson – although invited onto the group will not be partaking due to workload.
- **Finally, it was agreed that the NP Group needs to be one voice giving a clear and appropriate message and it is not appropriate to give individual or personal views when making statements in public. An article will be put in the next Cople News announcing the NP Group and its aims.**

Actions:

- Facebook page – we need to find someone to develop this – all to try and find someone appropriate.
- Programme for developing the plan – JP will work on this.
- Audit Trail – DA to investigate how this should be applied.
- Questionnaire/consultation event – SH will discuss with BRCC and a sub group (comprising SH, JH and DA) will meet with BRCC to discuss and plan the event. SH to circulate dates to sub group.
- Article in next Cople Parish News.
- LC to contact Paul Rowland and Sonia Gallagher (BBC) informing them that the Cople NP Group has had its first meeting, will give them the group contact details and the next steps proposed.

DONM: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 20:00 in the Village Hall.