

**Eccleshall Parish Neighbourhood Plan Group**  
**May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – Eccleshall Community Centre at 6.30pm.**

**Present were:-** David Pimble, John Baldry, Brian Mason, John Allen, Peter Thompson, Keith Weston, Barry Apps, Chris Heelis

**Apologies:-** Gordon Dale, Paul Snape, Cheryl Hyland, Luke Serjeant, Peter Bertram, Bob Osbourne and Sue Sanders.

Brian was thanked for the excellent work he had done compiling reports from the consultation responses and summarising the Housing, Traffic and Jobs and employment, including Excel bar charts for visual representation of the responses. Brian queried the availability of details for the evidence base.

David reported that a meeting had been held with Bob Keith (Planning Aid) and John Blount (Colwich NP) to seek advice regarding the progress with the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans. Following the meeting Bob had forwarded a Guidance Note about the compilation of the evidence base which may be useful and Christine was asked to circulate the information.

Bob had indicated that he considered the format of a paper outlining Draft Policies for Housing and Traffic and Parking Eccleshall prepared by David, was acceptable. David proposed that this format was adopted with the contents designed to reflect the strategic Policies set out in the Stafford Borough Local Plan. Other brief Policies would also be included on Jobs and Employment, Open Space and Historic Fabric.

It was agreed that the details of the evidence provided by the public consultations should be available on the website in due course.

Axiom had provided quotations to undertake an Automatic Traffic Council and also a Turning and Pedestrian Count. An ATC would record the hourly 2-way traffic over a 7 day period whilst a Turning Count would take place on a weekday from 7am to 7pm. A consultant had advised that a Turning Count would be required to assess the capacity of the roundabout and a quote was being sought to provide this assessment.

Members proposed minor amendments to the draft policies document. Possible additional Policies proposed included the creation of a Riverside Walk / Country Park.

Bob had advised that Community Aspirations could form part of an Appendix to the actual Plan. For example provision of a car park or bypass. David reported that the Traffic Management Committee of the Parish Council had discussed the exploration of several alternative sites for car parking:- Rear of the Library and Telephone Exchange., The Kings Arms, The Gas Holder Site, The Police Station.

Raj Bains had indicated recently that new settlement boundaries would be defined from forthcoming Neighbourhood Plans and through the Site Allocations Development Plan Document. Adoption of a proposed DPD was anticipated to be sometime in summer 2016. It was considered that these timescales would mean it would be too late to define settlement boundaries as planning applications submitted in the meantime would already have determined sites for development. There was also no prospect of the number of houses required per KSV being determined within the next few months.

It was agreed that the Plan should be progressed as a matter of urgency and that evidence was key. Providing reasons could be provided for the allocation of certain sites as opposed to others it would be acceptable to curtail the space identified. David had prepared a list of criteria to use for the assessment of sites, which Bob had considered to be appropriate. Keith, John and Peter were in the process of visiting the sites and making notes as to their suitability for development.

It was agreed that a site boundary would be drawn to include the land off Stafford Road, which was to be subject to a planning application by Richborough Estates. Other sites could be discounted because of drainage issues, important views of the Conservation Area and other considerations.

It was agreed to continue with the land surveys and David agreed to draft further policies for inclusion in the document, with a view to having a draft Plan prepared for the early autumn.

Christine was asked to establish whether SBC would screen the proposals contained in the Plan to establish if a Strategic Environmental Assessment would be required. Details were also to be requested of the methodology for determining the KSV for inclusion in the evidence base.

The next meeting of the Group was arranged for June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 6pm.  
The meeting closed at 7.45pm.