

Eccleshall Parish Neighbourhood Plan Group

July 24th, 2013 – Eccleshall Community Centre 6.30pm.

Present were:-

David Pimble	Keith Weston	Bob Osbourne
Peter Thompson	Cheryl Hyland	Peter Bertram
John Leather	Sue Sanders	Christine Heelis

Apologies:- were received from, Gordon Dale, Brian Mason, Paul Snape, Ron Maxwell, John Baldry, Barry Apps and Luke Serjeant

Mr Pimble referred to notes taken at a meeting yesterday with Mr B. Keith from Planning Aid, copies were circulated to those present. The group had been allocated 18 days support from Mr Keith been with the production of a Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that a grant had been received towards the costs of room hire, printing and the purchase of a display unit but no funding had been allocated for secretarial support.

Mr Keith indicated that if sites for development were to be allocated in the Plan and these could be challenged by developers and a Strategic Environment Assessment would be required. It was noted that the Parish Council could be held accountable in any dispute and liable for costs. The group agreed that the questionnaire could seek comments on a list of criteria for possible sites rather than locations.

Mr Keith indicated that the referendum question would be along the lines of “Do you want Stafford Borough Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Eccleshall to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

Designation:- Ms Bains had indicated that the application for the designation of the Neighbourhood Plan Area had been approved by the Borough Council. Ms Bains agreed to speak to Mr Yendole to discuss the information that the Borough could obtain for inclusion in the plan and Mr Keith indicated that he would contact the Borough Council to gain an understanding of their Local Plan and how it might link to the various neighbourhood plans being prepared in the Borough.

Questionnaire – Mr Thompson had devised and circulated a form to those members who had taken some questionnaires for analysis and produced a summary of the results. The best things identified were general attractiveness of the town, community spirit and the range of services while the main issues to address were control of development, affordable housing, traffic / parking and open space.

Thanks were recorded to Mr Thompson for collating and summarising the responses.

There followed some discussion about the proposed format for a further questionnaire. It was agreed that certain information should accompany the questionnaire to provide a greater understanding of the reasons for developing a Neighbourhood Plan and the impact it could have on the community in the future.

Mrs Heelis was asked to recirculate some sample surveys provided by Ms Bains, the questionnaire prepared by Much Wenlock appeared to be similar to what was required and could easily be modified. Mr Thompson would circulate some 'sample' questions he had written and group members were asked to suggest Eccleshall related questions of their own for circulation and consideration. The group agreed to meet again on **August 7th, 2013 at 6.30pm at Eccleshall Community Centre** to adapt the Much Wenlock survey to reflect the requirements of Eccleshall Parish. A pitch had been booked at the Eccleshall Show on August 31st, 2013 and it was planned to have a display and questionnaire prepared for consultation purposes at the event. The questionnaire would then be distributed with the September Parish Council Newsletter and made widely available.

Mr Keith had asked the group to consider the support required and how that could best be delivered and it was agreed to invite him to attend a future meeting of the group.

Mr Pimble thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed at 7.30pm.