

Long Melford Parish Council
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

held at 7pm on Thursday 24 OCT 2017 at Long Melford Village Hall

Meeting format: A Public Meeting, to outline the draft response of LMPC to the Babergh District Council Draft Local Plan

The meeting was opened by L. Malvisi (Chairman, Long Melford Parish Council), who provided introductions and the safety briefing. The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, G. Eade, then provided a brief talk on what the Draft Local Plan was, and how it “fitted” with the Neighbourhood Plan. There was an explanation of what future development meant to the village, and the intended response to BDC of the Parish Council.

The floor was then opened for questions from the public present.

Attendance: There were 113 members of the public in attendance.

Questions asked by the public:

1. Traffic on Hall St/ High Street:

There has been a significant rise in vehicular traffic, especially HGV's, and their speeding is a cause for great concern. *This was something to be addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan*

2. Core Villages:

There were questions on what constituted a core village (why is Long Melford one), and how equal is the allocation of houses between core villages. *Answered as part of the BDC response to the Draft Local Plan, the Core villages offer more amenities (such as schools GP surgery etc). for outlying villages to make use of.* Distribution of housing amongst core villages is not uniform.

3. Parking in the Village:

A number of questions were asked about plans to improve parking capability within the village. *Answered by way of the Neighbourhood Plan, which is looking to allocate land for parking, and making use of CIL monies.*

4. Parking Systems to ease congestion

There were suggestions that the village could incorporate a number of plans today that would improve the situation, such as (i) Parking permits (ii) waiting limits. *Answered – Parking enforcement remains the issue, as there is none. This is something that will be addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan, and meetings are planned with SCC Highways to gain their thoughts/understanding and approval on improvements.*

5. **Cycling** – There is a body of residents wishing to see cycling taken more seriously, and asked if this could be included in the Neighbourhood plan.
6. **Haverhill Road** – considered to be a death trap, and more enforcement/traffic calming methods sought.
7. **Footpaths and access to the Village** – This was specifically in relation to the lack of footpath from High Street into town. Building off high Street when there is no safe path to facilities (and no bus service) is not sustainable.
8. **Bushbrooke Allen** – Braintree District Council Developers – Is there any updates? *Answered -We have no knowledge of how this is development progressing.*
9. **Harefield Land (SS0934*)** Could the employment designation be switched to residential by BDC. *Answered – It is possible, and the proof is in the Fleetwood Caravan site that was originally posted as employment.*
10. **If we fail to identify enough land for housing, what are the consequences?** *Answered by Ian McDonald, who explained that this opened the door for every developer to claim windfall opportunities, as there was not enough land provided for in the plan.*

11. **Pressure on Infrastructure (eg GP surgery and school) will not allow any new houses to be built without adding facilities – what is being done about that?** *Answered – We are building this into the neighbour Plan, as this issue has been recognised.*
12. **Can we build more low-cost, smaller homes, as this is what our village needs?** *Answered – We are building this into the neighbour Plan, as this issue has been recognised.*
13. **Elaboration on Q12 – Facilities are overloaded, we need more facilities now.**

Meeting closed at 8.10.