

**Minutes** of the third meeting of the Wivenhoe Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group held at the Wivenhoe Council Offices at 19.30 on 23 May 2013.

**Present:** Robert Needham (chair), Jane Black (Wivenhoe Society), Cllrs Neil Lodge, Frances Richards and Brian Sinclair, Karen Syrett (Spatial Policy Manager CBC), residents Richard Polom, David Allen and Marika Footring (minutes).

**Apologies for absence:** Daisie Giddings, Rob Lee and Peter Hill.

**Declarations of interest:** Robert Needham (Wivenhoe Housing Trust)

Robert Needham welcomed Marika Footring as the steering group's volunteer secretary. He informed the meeting that all the landowners on the boundaries of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan, which was submitted to CBC on 9 May for the six-week consultation period, had been notified of the application. LaFarge had not been notified and it was thought they should be included as the workings will become exhausted at some point and the land may then become available for development.

Karen Syrett mentioned that the land on the far side of the A133 which is included in the submitted plan is subject to a development option held by Mersea Homes.

### **Review of last meeting's notes**

Though some of the items listed for action at the last meeting remain outstanding, discussion turned to the Affordable Housing subject, identified earlier by Peter Hill as deserving of special attention.

### **Proceedings**

1. Karen Syrett reminded members that the need for affordable housing is not limited to the young as the elderly are a growing demographic and their housing needs are growing apace. We should be looking to plan for the next 15 years. The housing need has to be evidence-based. Some of this the community itself can gather, some of it is available from CBC and some may need to be obtained with professional help. She gave examples of other places where community centres, leisure facilities, and possibly even health centres, had been achieved as a quid pro quo of development but conceded that these were more likely to be the result of market value housing rather than affordable housing development because "that's where the money is". Richard Polom pointed out that people's employment, life style and expectation of home ownership vs renting are changing, too, and that these changes should be factored into any future local needs.

Further general discussion on the subject then touched upon the need for expanded schools provision, care homes, the uncertain future of the Philips Rd site, the impact of the University of Essex on demand for facilities, the need for a new burial ground.

Robert Needham thought that the discussion so far indicated the need for a survey that would crystallise the needs and suggested that enquiries be made of the Rural Community Council of Essex about carrying out a survey. Government funding is available for expenditure of this sort.

2. Neil Lodge, supported by Brian Sinclair and Marika Footring, expressed the view that rather than thinking about engaging professional help at this point, we should prioritise engaging the community of Wivenhoe. This process is supposed to be community-led and the community is not yet sufficiently informed to realise the part it can play in this. The steering group's task is to involve all the residents in identifying needs and then to collate the outcome of the consultation.

Karen Syrett observed that there could be more than one such consultation.

3. After further discussion it was decided to hold an Open Day at the William Loveless hall. The date for this is now confirmed as **Saturday 6 July, from 10am – 3pm**, when as many members of the steering group as could be available would be present to explain this new process to residents and answer questions.

Displays of progressive development plans, a plan of the proposed Neighbourhood Area plan and various other information to be posted on the walls of the hall; post-it stickers for people to stick on the proposed area plan with suggestions of what they would like to see there by way of development; tea and coffee to be available.

A steering group presence at local events is another way of publicising this project. Broomgrove School Summer Fair ( Friday 5 July), Jazz on the Quay (Sunday 23 June), the Wivenhoe Regatta (Saturday 13 July) and the Wivenhoe Kids on the KGV (Saturday 20 July) are upcoming opportunities to have a steering group stall.

Richard Polom suggested other ways of publicising the plan, including displays at the station, street tables at Vine Parade and the Co-op. He agreed to investigate a Twitter presence.

Communication with local groups will be improved and the Wivenhoe Forum will also be used to post about the work of the steering group.

The possibility of providing a dedicated Wivenhoe NPSG tab on the Wivenhoe Council web site will be investigated.

4. It was agreed that members would look at relevant websites in preparation for the Open Day; *Locality* is one such: <http://planning.communityknowledgehub.org.uk/>  
*Forum for Neighbourhood Planning* is another:  
<http://www.ourneighbourhoodplanning.org.uk/>

### **Date of next meeting**

It was agreed to set fixed dates for future meetings and these will now be held on the first Wednesday of each month, the next being **Wednesday 5 June, at 7.30pm** at Wivenhoe Council Offices.