

Leicestershire Neighbourhood Planning Networking Event, meeting note

Tuesday 10th February 2015

Updates

Asfordby: Quite a few enquiries are being received from developers since they went out for consultation. Group believe you get a low turnout to questionnaires and that until people realise that it directly affects them they are not interested. They feel that the Melton Village Envelope is not effective. They firmly believe that a NP is required in order to protect where and what development the community requires. Their NP is driven and led by the PC.

Fosse Villages: A multi-parish NP made up of 12 groups. 1 PC has decided to withdraw from the process which has caused several issues that are currently being resolved. There is still a willingness by the remaining 11 groups to progress although problems have been identified regarding funding.

Waltham on the Wolds: They are currently awaiting a response from MBC on funding arrangements.

Burbage: Had seen problems with their original steering group; however, a second steering group has been established with the chair of the PC also as chair of the advisory group. Need further funding to continue next year. Their questionnaire had a 20% response rate from 9,000. A large number of comments and suggestions need to be captured. Theme groups will be based on questionnaire outcomes. They are hoping to have draft policies in place within the next couple of months. Feel good links with PC are vital. An existing Village Design Statement has been incorporated in their NP a suggestion which was made by HBBC Planning Department who have been very helpful.

Ashby de la Zouch: Working in partnership with community and town council. They stated that if the PC is not taking an interest unfortunately you cannot setup without them as it is the PC that have to submit the NP to the planning authority.

Broughton Astley: The first adopted NP in Leicestershire they are now progressing with their development and monitoring, with a group meeting up regularly. S106 has taken a while to get finalised and they are currently awaiting the decision on a High Court challenge (see Appendix 1). Their Village Centre Improvement Strategy has been delayed. From experience they feel it is key to manage community expectations. Make sure objectives are achievable. They have worked very closely with HDC to achieve what they require through S106 and have found that developers have worked with them. Their policies have also been written into S106 agreements.

Planit-X (see presentation)

Colin Wilkinson – Gave his first presentation on Leicestershire perspective overview on housing and Neighbourhood Plans – How many houses to plan for. It was stressed that you need to involve local businesses and all elements of your community. You cannot cover everything so focus on what is important to your community.

DCLG Update (see presentation)

- Designating Local Green Space was becoming more popular and that this can be done through local plans and NPs. Information about this can be found in the NP Policy Framework.

- From Application of Designation to Referendum usually takes approximately 18mths to 2yrs but there is no definitive and NPs can vary.
- Commissioning tools and templates will start to become available before the end of this year, keep an eye on the Locality website for details.
- Case Studies are available and explain breakdown of funding and where funding has come from as well as details about the NP.
- When asked it was agreed that a summary of completed NP policies would be useful; however, there was currently no resource available to performance this large task.
- Local Green Space Designation cannot be used to stop urban areas encroaching on villages; however, you can have a separate policy within a NP to cover this.
- The Planning Practice Guidance is an extremely useful tool and it is recommendation as a key document for use when developing an NP.

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 30th June 2015, Leicestershire County Council, 5.30pm. Please contact Nik Green, Communities and Places Officer to book a place. Nik.Green@leics.gov.uk

Nik Green Communities and Places Officer 0116 3057309
19th February 2015

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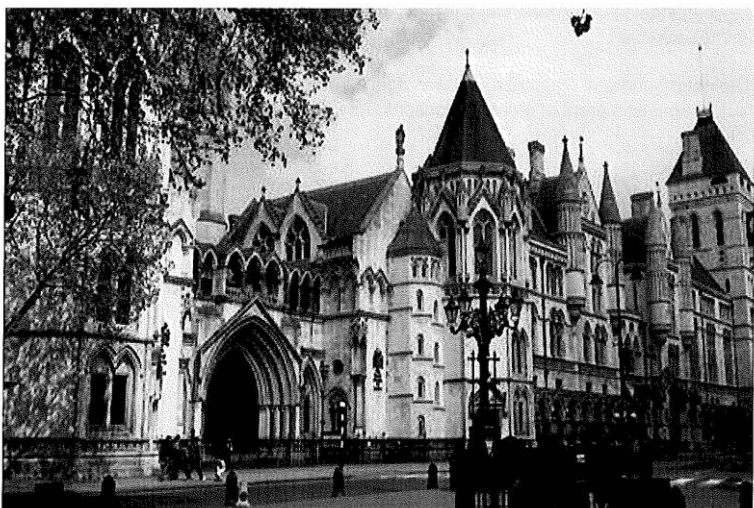
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High Court backs Pickles over neighbourhood plan conflict refusal

24 February 2015 by Court reporter , Be the First to Comment

A High Court judge has upheld a secretary of state decision to block a 100-home development in a Leicestershire village on grounds that the scheme would conflict with a neighbourhood plan.



London's Royal Courts of Justice

Developer Ivan Crane objected after he was refused planning permission to build 111 homes, a sports hall, a neighbourhood centre, sports pitches and landscaping on a 14-hectare greenfield site off Crowfoot Way, Broughton Astley.

His application was rejected by Harborough District Council, and subsequently by a planning inspector and communities secretary Eric Pickles primarily on the basis that it conflicted with the recently adopted Broughton Astley neighbourhood plan.

A decision letter issued on behalf of Pickles said the inspector acknowledged the housing land allocation policies covering the area were out of date and that Crane's plans would "make an important contribution" to meeting unmet demand for new homes.

However, he ruled that the proposals would have a "moderately harmful effect" on the area's character and appearance and particularly highlighted the conflict with the neighbourhood plan, in which the site was not one of those earmarked for housing development.

In dismissing Crane's appeal against the secretary of state's decision, the High Court rejected claims that he had misconstrued and placed too much weight on the provisions of the neighbourhood plan.

Although Crane's plans would add usefully to the area's supply of housing land, Mr Justice Lindblom described the minister's decision as "unassailable" and "wholly unimpeachable".

The neighbourhood plan, he ruled, was rightly treated as "a powerful and decisive factor" against a grant of planning consent.

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