

Stutton Neighbourhood Plan: Working Group Meeting held on Friday 30th April (postponed from 23rd April)

Present (by zoom): Mark Nowers, Ian Flower, Penny Greenland, Bill Hewlett, Nick Pavitt, Fran Flower, Jenny Morris.

1. Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Lucy's second draft)

Fran expressed concern that the Holbrook Road end of the village is impacted by the poor design of the Hastoe houses, the loss of views because of the campsite and the light pollution from the toilet block. She was concerned that this part of the village will continue to lose out. Nick pointed out that Lucy's report is strong on protecting that part of the village which should help.

Lucy joined the discussion. She had been helping Lavenham update their Neighbourhood Plan and, from their experience of its impact on development, advised us to beware of possible unintended consequences as a result of the identification of key views. She emphasised that the Design Guide would be crucial.

We need to turn some of the information in the LVIA into planning policies, eg. specifying that parking on any development should be screened. Lucy advised that Rachel Hogger could help us and emphasised that she is excellent. We also agreed that we need to identify opportunities to improve the landscape. This may involve Community Actions rather than planning policies. For example, we could aim to use planting to demarcate the entrances to the village; to persuade Anglia Water to mitigate the light pollution from the toilet block, etc.

Bill has made some comments on the Management Objectives and will send these to Lucy. We will send any further comments to Jenny by Friday 7th May and Jenny will collate them and send them to Lucy on Monday 10th May.

We thanked Lucy for her impressive and very helpful report and she left the meeting.

2. Site allocation

We have still not had feedback from Babergh planning re the redrafted proposals. It is proving as challenging as we always suspected it might be to progress with identifying a potential site. There was general agreement that we are unlikely to ever get Babergh's agreement to one of the sites. We agreed to stop pursuing it therefore.

We agreed to continue to pursue the second site because:

- we continue to recognise that development will happen, whether we allocate or not
- we are still mindful of Babergh's strong advice that allocating a site or sites will help defend against development proposals on other sites around the village that we want to protect; we believe this remains the 'best' site to put forward
- we are mindful that this site has some impact on an important view, (identified in Lucy's report as in need of protection) but note it will already be impacted by impending development
- we think that the redrafted proposal addresses the objections previously raised by Babergh and strives to protect and enhance community assets and views.

We agreed that Mark will email the landowner of the ~~other~~ second site, attaching a copy of the latest draft proposal, telling him that we cannot go forward with one site but ask whether he's willing to put forward the other site on its own.

3. Draft report

Jenny had circulated an updated version with a number of comments which need addressing. Responses will be emailed to her by Friday 14th May.

4. Greenway

Mark has had a meeting with someone from the Rights of Way section of Suffolk County Council, who has measured out the dimensions of the proposed first section of the Greenway and will provide costings.

4. Date of next meeting Friday 14th May, 4pm.