

Lee Bray – Planning and Regeneration

MEETING WITH MARHAMCHURCH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP

Some **key words** to bear in mind throughout:
" **appropriate / succinct / proportionate / delivery** "

WHAT IS A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN?

- A plan **prepared by the local community** through a collaborative process
- To help **guide and deliver changes** that the local community wishes to see
- Designed to be able to be **used as part of the development plan** for the area
- It is primarily a **land use** document and should be **succinct, unambiguous and user-friendly**

WHAT MUST A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DO?

A neighbourhood plan must meet some basic conditions. It must:

- be **appropriate** having regard to national policy
- have special regard to listed buildings, features of special architectural or historic interest and any conservation area
- contribute to the achievement of **sustainable development**
- **generally conform** with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area
- be compatible with **human rights** requirements and **EU obligations**

WHAT PROCESS SHOULD THE PLAN FOLLOW

- Decide **why** the plan is needed, **what area** it will cover, **who** will lead the process and how **the community** will be involved
- **Identify** key themes, aims, vision and options, keeping a record of all the **evidence**
- **Write** the plan, then publish for **consultation** and amend as necessary
- **Submit** the plan to the LPA for **examination** by an independent examiner, followed by a **referendum** (50% support needed), for the plan to be **'made'** (adopted)

WHAT DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED

At the outset

- The NP application, confirmation notice, constitution and terms of reference

At draft plan consultation stage (Reg 14)

- The draft plan, evidence base and screening opinions regarding any need for SEA or HRA
- Good practice could include a Sustainability Appraisal, a Monitoring Framework and draft versions of the Basic Conditions Statement and the Statement of Consultation

At submission (Reg 15)

- The submitted plan, evidence base (including SEA and/or HRA if required), Basic Conditions Statement and Statement of Consultation
- Good practice could mean a Sustainability Appraisal and a Monitoring Framework

This outline guidance does not purport to be comprehensive

Lee Bray – August 2022