

**BRACKENFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP
AT THE PLOUGH, BRACKENFIELD
ON TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2017 AT 6PM**

Present: Neal Steeper, Stefan Priest, Michael Poole, Peter Pilsbury, Rachel Robson (Consultant), Mike Edwards, Christine Edwards, Anne Edgar

Apologies: David Wakefield, Caroline Wakefield, Martin Philips, Jane Bush; Linda Walker

Community Survey feedback:

The only further feedback from the steering group was a comment wishing to highlight the need for family housing, however the report can only reflect the views expressed in the survey.

Christine will ask Martin to put the report on the website.

Vision and Objectives:

There was some discussion of the revised draft document circulated by Rachel. At this stage it is a working draft and the wording can be changed; in particular there is a need to reflect the community view that any future development should be sustainable yet small-scale and in keeping with the village. Rachel explained that the objectives are broad brush statements from which a number of much more specific policies will be developed. This will be clearer once we have completed the Character Assessment.

Mike had checked national guidance and local information concerning “Dark Skies” and “Quiet Lanes”. There is no record of Brackenfield being listed in either category. There is only one short lane in Derbyshire designated a quiet lane and three specific Dark Sky areas, for which the criteria are very tight. Mike added that it might be more practical to seek 30mph speed limits in the village and to create a “Lighting Plan” which could inform any future developments and planning applications regarding measures to reduce light pollution.

Village Character Assessment

Rachel introduced some guidance and methodology for developing a character assessment based on the Planning Aid toolkit (Character Assessment), Natural England Guidance (An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment) and Oxford City Council (in partnership with English Heritage.)

The process can be divided into Settlement Character and Landscape Character.

For the Settlement Character the first step is to identify the broad character areas within the village, then to walk round each area recording the key characteristics using the pro forma provided.

For the Landscape Character, the first step is a desktop study to identify existing character studies and relevant material followed by completion of a Landscape pro forma and associated field work and photographs.

The process needs to be targeted towards providing sufficient evidence to justify the policies in the Plan with some history and background information to set the context. Heritage, views and green spaces (setting/recreational use/archaeology/footpaths) are all relevant. It will be important to show how the area has changed over time (graphic representation on a map and associated photographs would be a good way to represent the findings.)

It was agreed that there are a number of residents and former residents of Brackenfield who have significant local knowledge and it will be very useful to gather information from them.

- **Neal and Mike will form a sub-group to plan gathering local knowledge. Peter offered to assist.**

Rachel brought a large scale map of the area in order to start identifying character areas. There is no single obvious way of dividing the area due to its spread. Possible divisions could be:

- The Green and surroundings
 - The Victorian area (Ogston Hall/Church Farm/Church/Vicarage/Holly Cottage?)
 - Carr Lane/School Lane
 - Outlying Farms or lanes
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- **It was agreed that we should all think about this for further discussion at the next meeting.**

The Character Assessment is a significant piece of work which will underpin the Neighbourhood Plan. It is anticipated that completion will take several months. The Steering Group agreed to get as far as we can with it and then to seek specialist professional advice should this be deemed necessary, to ensure that the Assessment is robust.

- **Rachel agreed to identify dates when she could meet with members of the group to walk round an area and model how to complete the pro formas.**

Desktop Study:

Documents	Source
National Character Area Descriptions	Natural England
Derbyshire Landscape Character Assessment	Derbyshire County Council
Areas of Multiple Environmental Sustainability 2013	Derbyshire County Council
Tranquility 2013	Derbyshire County Council
Historic Environment Study 2012	North East Derbyshire
Historic Environment Record	Derbyshire County Council
Heritage at Risk Register	Derbyshire County Council
Green Infrastructure Strategy 2012	North East Derbyshire Council

Funding update:

Awards for All (Lottery) have awarded £8000. The first tranche of the grant from Locality has been spent and an application has been submitted for the second tranche. We are on target with the Project Plan.

Next meeting: Tuesday 9 January 2018 6pm at The Old House, Butterfield Lane

To be discussed: Character Assessment – defining areas and gathering data

