

**BRACKENFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP
AT THE PLOUGH INN, BRACKENFIELD
ON TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 6PM**

Present: David Wakefield, Caroline Wakefield, Linda Walker, Neal Steeper, Rachel Robson (Consultant), Stefan Priest, Keith Purvis, Karen Purvis, Peter Pilsbury, Mike Edwards, Christine Edwards, Anne Edgar

Apologies: Martin Philips, Billie-Jean Poole

Matters arising:

- **Village Character Assessment:** Most of the character assessment work has been completed and forwarded to Rachel with relevant photos. Photos are needed of the village from Roadnook Farm and from Higham.
- **Derbyshire Wildlife Trust:** Following Mike's request they have sent local data and maps, which have been forwarded to Rachel.
- **Appeal relating to proposed housing development on Back Lane:** Stefan and Mike have spoken with Sam Beastall, who is Chair of Wessington's NP group regarding a response to the appeal. Concern was also raised about the impact of proposed packet water treatment plants for new developments, leading to increased water run-off onto fields, lanes and Winny Brook in Brackenfield and possible sewage contamination of the water courses and river Amber.

Character Assessment of NP Area:

- Rachel has started to mark views, listed buildings and possible non-designated heritage assets on a large map of the NP area. Some time was spent as a group adding to this list, including sites of archaeological and historical distinction. These include the remains of the roman bridge on the Amber; the site of the Turbines on the Amber; Brackenfield Green; Occupation Lane; Wall on Millers Lane; Ice House at Ogston Hall; Path north of Roadnook Farm; Wall along Ogston New Road (using stone from houses now consumed by the reservoir); Trinity Chapel; Ashover Light Rail (near Smithy Cottage)
- It was suggested that a Special Character Area should be defined around the vicinity of The Green, highlighting the buildings and also the significant spaces between the buildings.
- Church Lane was raised as a hazardous area for traffic, where water run-off, ice and shade from the high trees and hedgerows bordering this narrow lane, recently led to a potentially serious car crash. As highlighted in the survey, there is a need for 30mph limits throughout the village and permissive paths where feasible.
- It was noted that in earlier times all the fields locally were named. It was suggested that we should title our Plan "A field called Rachel – A Neighbourhood Plan for Brackenfield" to make it distinctive.

Natural Environment: Discussion regarding environmental policies:

- There was some discussion about whether any areas could be designated as Local Green Space i.e. of special social, historical or environmental value.
- The potential of the Green as a habitat for wildlife could be enhanced.
- The existing woodland area of the Green is maturing well and may require some

planned management to enable it to thrive and develop further.

- There was some discussion about policies relating to the Green and enhancing habitat. It was decided that a broad generic policy would be most appropriate, so that specifics can be followed up at a later date, through a process of whole community engagement. Phrases such as “encouraging and enhancing wildlife” and “retaining the Green as a Community Amenity” could cover a range of options.
- The water meadows to the East of Brackenfield towards the railway line were mentioned as a site for some bird species (e.g. lapwings and larks), wild flowers and butterflies.
- Distinctive trees around the Green area and on Brackenfield Lane could be highlighted. (e.g. Oak, Ash and Beech)
- The replacement of bright street lights, with lots of light spillage, with more environmentally friendly lighting should be encouraged.
- Regular walking routes need to be highlighted on a footpath map, also looking at any gaps and how these may be linked; a circular route round Ogston Reservoir could be one example. There could be a policy in the plan that would support the development of permissive paths.
- Rachel explained that the SSSI has protection already and there is general national policy regarding priority habitats (woodland). It is important to drill down further to identify local important habitats and species and local wildlife sites which have conservation value. Species highlighted locally by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust include: water voles, badgers, bats. This could link with policies regarding protection of trees and hedgerows, replacement/planting of native trees, requirement to incorporate bat boxes into new buildings.....

Any Other Business:

- **History Section:** Neal and Mike have started gathering information including audio recordings of some village residents, concerning their recollections about the Green, Ogston Estate, Drovers' routes, Trinity Chapel, the impact of Ogston Reservoir (which caused upheaval and land and significant buildings were lost) and Mining. Some of this data can be used to help build the historical background: The origins of Brackenfield, how the area has developed over time, the origins of roads and paths, historical context and the links between some of the buildings. A time line could be useful.

Next steps:

- Rachel will send examples of history sections and a framework so that the NP group can start putting this together.
- Rachel will send a pro forma and guidance notes to help the NP group to start documenting Heritage Assets.

Dates of meetings (all at The Plough Inn):

Tuesday 6 March at 6pm

Tuesday 10 April at 6pm

Tuesday 15 May at 6pm

