

1. Garforth Neighbourhood Planning Forum

Minutes of Steering Group Meeting held on 20th November 2014

Present : Robin Best, John Blake, Andy Cahill, Liz Crosland, Jessica Ferguson, James Langley, David LeRoy (Chair) Sue McQuire (Secretary), Nick Mason, Jane –Anne Parsons, Mike Tonks, Alan Tynan, Rob Utley (Treasurer), Keith Dunwell, +Michael Oates, +Tom Robbins (Aberford NPG) Steve Wilkinson (LCC Planning)

The chair welcomed everyone and introduced our visitors from the Aberford Planning group and Steve Wilkinson from Leeds City Council Planning dept.

1. **Apologies:** Josie Andrews, Chris Cooley, David Pitchfork, Ian MacKay (LCC planning) Tom Robinson (Aberford NPG), Paul Roberts.
2. **Declaration of interest :** none
3. **Steve Wilkinson Senior Planner** – Forward Planning & Implementation (east) Leeds City Council explained that he is now our link with the Leeds City Council Planning department as Tom Ridley has moved to another area.

Steve has experienced working with Local Plans and Development Management his remit is to liaise with our group, seek and give advice and help with the formation of our plan.

Leeds City Council has adopted the Core Strategy (which can be found on the council website), subject to a 6 week legal challenge period. The Core Strategy includes the acceptance of a 70,000 housing unit target for the city. The Site Allocations DPD will decide the specific housing sites to help achieve this housing target. The Council has previously consulted on the Site Allocations: Issues and Options in June 2013 (docs on website). It is envisaged that the next round of public consultation, showing the Councils preferred housing, retail, employment and greenspace sites will take place in Spring 2015.

Steve was asked if this housing target was based on the 2008 or the revised 2012 Department of Communities and Local Government Household Projections papers. This issue had recently been debated at the last Full Council meeting (available on the Council webcasts). It was decided at the meeting to adopt the Core Strategy with the 70,000 housing requirement.

Steve was asked why Garforth was so late in setting up their Neighbourhood Planning Forum. Steve responded by stating Neighbourhood Planning is community led, not led by the Council. The parished areas had an advantage over the non-parished areas as they had a structure already in place with their parish councillors who are responsible for planning issues. Kippax (a parished area) was in a national pilot scheme and had received additional funding.

Steve was asked why our designation status had been delayed putting at risk our funding application which was due to close at the end of the year. We explained that

we had followed procedures and submitted all necessary information. He was unclear as to the reason for the delay but understood that the funding period was to be extended and is now more flexible. He would like to have a copy of our SWOT analysis and information from our consultations exercises (**ACTION Sue McQuire**).

A question was asked about the council's response to the public consultation exercise (on the initial Site Allocations document) held in July 2013. The planning department had to deal with 7-8000 responses, hence the delay in progressing the document. If we disagree with the final housing allocation numbers for our area then we need to provide evidence for a well reasoned argument eg. Population density, during the next public consultation stage.

Our chairman understood that our councillor had informed the council that the weight of public opinion in Garforth was against further large housing development in Garforth. Steve said that ultimately the final recommendations will be made by the planners and ward councillors. These will be tested for conformity with the Core Strategy by a Government appointed Planning Inspector at Examination stage, who will have the final say on the location of development.

4. Michael Oates gave a brief history of their boundary discussions : In 2012 Aberford parish Council together with interested residents formed a Neighbourhood Planning Group. Due to their parished area falling between the Outer North East and Outer South East areas the initial plan proposed to set the Boundary line of the Aberford Plan finishing at the motorway. In order to avoid duplication of work.

15/8/2012 Ian MacKay published a Northern Area Designation Report in which he identifies problems with the Aberford NDP boundary

On 11/12/13 (16 months later) they received notification that the Designation of Aberford Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) had been confirmed and the plan provided showing their NDP boundary ending east of the motorway whilst Parish boundary is shown west of the motorway where it now remains.

On 2/4/14 There was a meeting with members of Aberford district parish council Mark Dobson and acting secretary of Garforth NPF. Mark wished them to retain their Aberford NDP boundary as a means of providing protection for the land until Garforth had received designation status. No firm decisions were taken.

Aberford are willing to change boundary lines but as Garforth is not 'parished' the process will be complicated.

Questions were raised wanting clarification on the 'rights' of a designated forum compared with a parish council group and how and when these discussions would take place. The issue will have to be taken to the LCC planning dept.

Steve stated that the housing allocation was for all the Outer South East, no decisions had been made for Garforth and he suggested that we meet with other settlements within the outer south east with whom we share boundaries.

5. Sub group reports

- Site allocation – minutes available, Question raised as to the liability of our group should developers decide to sue? Steve said that Council made final decisions and would accept any liability. Keith suggested that we contact the group who had been in that situation.
 - Commerce- not yet met
 - Leisure – to meet next week
 - Traffic- have met, minutes to follow
 - Healthcare – have met, assessing current healthcare provision. Steve asked for the source/ evidence for some of the healthcare criteria in the Site Allocations – Sustainability Appraisal Report **Action Steve**
 - **Education** – not met yet
 - **Flood group** – A well established group broad strategy to maintain existing services and look Yorkshire Water to improve infrastructure. Steve suggested contacting LCC building control- drains and sewage.
6. **AOB** Invoices for room hire have been sent to LCC finance for payment, copies given to Alan to provide information on spending Alan wanted to know suitable date which he could offer Shaun Hanson, will need 3 hours so probably a Saturday am. **Action David LeRoy.**

Another meeting will be next Thursday 27 th November to complete agenda items.