

Neighbourhood Plan Issues

Private Meeting 13 March 2017
6.30-7.30, Holton Village Hall.

for

WPC / HPC Councillors,
WNP Committee members,
4 Holton 'Ambassadors' to NPO Workshops

Agenda:

1. The first-draft Neighbourhood Plan. John Fox.

7 workshops / 25 hours discussion Nov – Feb 2016-2017, involving 8 WNP Committee members, and 1 – 2 each session of 4 nominated Holton 'ambassadors'. Endorsed by full WNP Committee 22 Feb., sent to SODC advisors 27 Feb., welcomed by them 6 Mar. It is currently with SODC advisors for SEA (Environmental Impact) & HRA (Habitat etc) Assessment and tightening of Policy wording. Routine checking. Expected back late April.

ISSUES

a) *Preferred Options/Sites Consultation [2]* is due from SODC on 29 March as part of the new LP2033. The former *Preferred Options (1)* LP2032 was published 1 June 2016. Consultation in June-August recorded many responses District-wide. Housing had been proposed on Brookes site 'at least 300 ... with mixed-development'. WNP persistently sought clarification of figures circulating, '300+ = 600+ =...'. Much correspondence between SODC Planners, Brooks & WNP in August. Full WNP Committee questioned Planning Officials, Sept. Chair SODC, planners and new advisers, met WNP Dec 2016. The figure of 'at least 300 ... and mixed development' was the basis for WNP Community Opinion Survey alongside the statutory Housing Needs Survey in August-September. '300 Homes' is the figure supported by WNP Draft Plan after WNP's listening to the Community.

We are now warned (06 Mar) this is to change in Second Preferred Options (29 March).

b) Green Belt. WNP have been advised that Holton PC should apply for Local Green Space status for the non-built-on part of the OBU site, thereby removing it from the Green Belt. 'No guarantee' (SODC planner) it is any safer, as it is a new untested concept from 2012. Green Belt 'is now less safe'. WNP have had no further clarification.

NP would also have to apply to extend its own 2015 Designated Area and add a WNP policy in support of Local Green Space provision. NP has no brief anyway to comment on the half site which lies outside its defined map Area of 2015. The site map used in SODC public consultation was for months the subject of requests to clarify. Meanwhile, Aug-December, WNP had no Adviser in post.

c) If inexplicably all Green Belt is now considerably 'looser' and more of an unknown, this has **implications for both Wheatley & Holton**. WNP Housing and Land team have worked for months on Green Belt land in Wheatley. Their conclusions are contained in the Draft NP version currently with SODC prior to Public Consultation. A clear majority of inhabitants consulted for the Draft WNP in the community want the Green Belt retained. Their opinion as recorded by WNP is at risk of being suppressed. We need the support and awareness of both Parish Councils.

A short powerpoint presentation will help illuminate the situation.

John Fox
WNP Chairman