

15

Eaton Bishop Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group
Minutes of meeting
11th February 2016

Present Steering Group; Leon Wolverson; Tim Coleman; Jules Hudson;
Louis LaGoutte; David Richards; Astrid Mick; Laura Norris;
Present Parish Councillors
Ray Christopher (Chairman); Caroline Hanks; Rosie Robinson; Matt Johnson
Louise Kirkup (representing Kirkwells)

Apologies: Erika Lyons; John Sutherland-Hawes

Also present: approximately 20 + members of the parish

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 14th December 2015 were approved by all present.

Declarations of interest.

Leon Wolverson (no direct interest- a relative has submitted site 16)

David Richards an interest in site 7 in Eaton Bishop.

Rosie Robinson (not in Steering Group) an interest in site 5 at Ruckhall.

These members will not participate in any discussion of the relevant sites.

- 1 Ray Christopher, Chairman of the Parish Council, introduced himself, Leon Wolverson, Chairman of the Steering Group, and the other members of the NDP steering group and Parish Council.
- 2 Leon gave an introduction to the evening with an explanation of the Calls for Sites procedure. The submitted sites have been assessed completely independently of the Steering Group by Kirkwells who are advising the parish on the plan. The results of the assessment of the sites submitted were presented this evening in a draft form and the final amended and accepted version will go on the parish website over the next few days for all parishioners to access and read.

In March or April a Public Consultation Day will be held at the village hall, and a presentation of the results of the Call for Sites will be made to the public for comment and discussion.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan will undergo many stages of examination culminating in a final vote of Parishioners to be organised by Herefordshire Council.

- 3 Questions from the public: A number of questions were asked by members of the public and answered by the NDP Steering Group chairman and Louise Kirkup. These included a question about what would

happen if no plan was passed by the parish; the procedure of voting for or against the entire plan; and a question about the types of houses (characteristics) being negotiated on a site-by site basis. It was stressed again that the consultation event in March or April would be an opportunity for more questions.

- 4 Presentation by Louise Kirkup: Explanation of procedure - key aspects of identified sites, with the assessment being conducted partly on desk-based information and then by physical visits to all the individual sites. No member of the Steering Group or Parish Council was involved in any part of the assessments.
The conclusions of the assessment are to be found in the Report on P. 8. Louise explained the methodology (P 4), stating that no particular weighting was given to any aspect over another, and that the scoring of points was carried out as indicated in pages 4-6.

Louise then talked through the individual sites (1-21) with the conclusions on their suitability.

Appendix 2 gives the summary of points scored by individual sites with 60 or more out of a possible 75 points (i.e. at least 80%) being recommended for acceptance.

Louise also emphasized that certain policies would be created regarding the subject of designs of the houses to be built, in particular in Ruckhall. The wording of these policies would be important, as the thrust was to consider and uphold the importance of the architectural environment of Eaton Bishop (to achieve "good design" rather than a 'quick build'). Recommendations would be included regarding environmental considerations beyond just the visual appearance of new builds.

- 5 The members of the committee were asked for their comments on the results of the assessment. All agreed with the results, and then proceeded to vote on accepting the results and recommending the Parish Council accept the report which was unanimously agreed.

The Steering Group agreed with the recommendations of the report as being appropriate for the reasons given in the report and summarised below:-

Recommended choice of sites;_

Sites 2,4,7 & 16 – Eaton Bishop – 25 houses

Sites 5,18,19, & 20 – Ruckhall – 5 houses

A further 4 houses have been completed since 2011 with another 5 awaiting completion. Thus, the target of at least 33 houses set by Herefordshire Council has been achieved.

All chosen sites relate well to existing built forms of the settlements for proportionate development by the Herefordshire Council Local Plan Core Strategy 2011 – 2031 and the required main focus on EB with the lesser focus on the development of Ruckhall.

The proposed choice of sites for development will result in > 80% of the development located in EB with <20% in Ruckhall.

None significantly extend the boundaries of existing settlements into open countryside.

None reduce the separation of EB and Ruckhall.

None encourage future linear development or in-filling – especially between EB & Ruckhall.

- 6 The proposed settlement boundaries of Eaton Bishop and Ruckhall were drawn in on previously prepared maps. They were discussed and agreed by the members of the Steering Group and will be passed to the Parish Council for approval and inclusion into the draft NDP for consultation.
- 7 A few questions were posed by members of the public regarding the lack of facilities in the parish. The plan can only mention the lack, possibly recommend improvements, but there is no mechanism to demand them.
- 8 The Call for Sites work was charged at £1200 by Kirkwells and will be paid out of parish funds.
- 9 The Steering Group Chairman thanked Louise Kirkup for her time and valued contribution and also thanked members of the public for turning out.

Meeting Closed.