

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – NEXT STEPS

Paper for Walberswick Parish Council meeting of the 12th April 2021

This paper seeks to lay out an initial roadmap for the next steps of the Walberswick Neighbourhood Plan.

Firstly, as we already know, the area determination has been approved. This is the first step.

The second step would be to contact Planning Policy at ESC to arrange a meeting with officers who will be able to guide the involved councillors and myself as to the next steps.

The important thing to remember here is that the Neighbourhood Plan should be pushed forward by a steering group and not the Parish Council itself (although it is advisable that a couple of Councillors and the Clerk are involved). The Parish Council should set up the steering group and seek to involve as many people in the village as possible. The people who eventually make it onto the steering group will then hopefully be a more diverse cross section of the population.

It is this steering group which should meet with the planning policy officers for the next steps and funding will be forthcoming after we have demonstrated that there is a broad desire and need for a plan and it does not divert too much from the already agreed Local Plan.

My initial thoughts are that we have a ready-made group of interested residents in the Planning Advisory Group and representatives should be drawn from there, plus an advert in the Village News which advertises this and calls for people to step forward. We would have to evidence all the steps we have taken to involve people.

It would be in our interest to do this, primarily because when this eventually gets to the referendum people will be asked to vote on something they might not know anything about and this might result in people either voting against it or an atmosphere of distrust about what the Parish Council are trying to do and seek to vote it down.

Recommendations

- **That the Parish Council at this meeting formally creates this steering group.**
- **That this is immediately advertised as soon as possible and other residents are contacted appropriately.**
- **That the parish Clerk be given authority to contact ESC Planning Policy to set up a meeting with officers and the Steering Group.**