

Minutes of Little Hallingbury Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
Tuesday 9th January 2024 8pm.

Present: Lewis Coomber, Cara Fitzgerald, Jane Fitzgerald, Brenda Layton, Ben MacLean, Sue Meyer, Val McKirdy, Keith Summerford, Robert Wingard.

Apologies: Julie Franklin, Donna Johnson, Lorraine Talbot.

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Update on Locality grant application: The Government Grant for neighbourhood plan groups administered by Locality has deadline of 26th Jan 2024 for this financial year. There is a limit of £10k in any one application and monies must be spent by 31st March 2024. Further grant monies can then be applied for when the next round of funding opens. Given the likely Election later this year the timetable and monies available post 31st March may vary from previous years. Details of the tasks, budget, quotes and proposed request for grant funding were discussed and agreed.

Planning consultants: details of the planning consultants who are able to undertake the work required were discussed along with the quotes they provided.

Key issues raised in the Residents Questionnaire: a list of the key issues raised by residents was presented to the Steering Group. A discussion took place as to how these will be addressed.

- We are applying for a 'Design Code' Grant which if successful will provide a report enabling concerns raised by residents regarding house design and development to be addressed in future. The report would set out design principles that will ensure any buildings and places reflect local identity.
- Further information will be obtained regarding the feasibility of a Children's Playground.
- A Landscape Assessment Survey grant has been requested which will map the Village and its Heritage and identify village views and character which we can then seek to preserve.
- Subject to grant approval, a housing needs survey will be conducted to establish whether there is sufficient demand within the Village for affordable housing on a small rural exception site for local people. That is those who live or have close association with Little Hallingbury, as per the existing development at Pond Fields.
- Following the concerns raised regarding traffic, LH Parish Council has agreed to make a formal request via Susan Barker Essex County Councillor, for a pedestrian crossing and 'village gates' on the A1060. If the request is supported by Susan Barker it will go to Essex Highways Panel, however requests can take some time to be investigated, validated, obtain funding and therefore for any work to commence.

LHNP Vision and Objectives: A draft vision was discussed as follows:

To preserve and enhance our village life, historic heritage and countryside within the green belt environment, whilst conserving our wildlife, community and village character for generations to come.

This vision statement will be reviewed again once the LHNP Objectives are completed.

LHNP Evidence base: Work on the history of the Village has been done. Work will now commence to record the Village community facilities and clubs and to compile a list of the Heritage buildings and assets.

Date of next meeting Thursday 15th February 7.30pm Little Hallingbury Village Hall meeting room at the rear.