

Lound Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Meeting Friday 24th January 2020 at 2.00pm.

Present: Michael Naylor (Chair), Andrew Perkins, Nick Prout, and Colin Beaumont

Apologies: Pam Beardsall

Declarations of Interest: None

Minutes of meeting held 15th. January 2020: Confirmed as a true record

Matters arising: -

Sustainability Appraisal - Scoping Report Still outstanding

Action: Will to finalise the Report by deleting Appendix A.

Action: Colin to publish Final Report on village website.

Financial Report

Michael advised we currently have funds of £8,349 with outstanding payments due - consultancy £1,500 and village hall rents (to be established)

Emerging Bassetlaw District Plan and its effects on our NP

Andrew and Nick attended the BDC presentation on 16 Jan 2020 and challenged the proposed increases in new building numbers for small rural settlements as being unrealistic and having a disproportionate effect on their environs.

Subsequently, there has been an exchange of correspondence with BDC officers and consultation with Will Wilson and Helen Metcalfe. The prospects of BDC altering its stance to accommodate small rural settlements, before the end of their six week consultation period or at all, are uncertain.

The Parish Council have been notified that our NP process has stalled.

The Way Forward

Our Draft NP v.7a was the result of several years of consultation, assimilation of data, professional advice and dialogue with all interested parties. It was viewed as a realistic compromise between the wishes of a large majority of residents for little or no new housing in Lound and the requirement stipulated in the draft BDC Local Plan, released in January 2019. The revised "requirement" of BDC in their latest version of the Local Plan is unrealistic and unfair to Small Rural Settlements (SRSs), such as Lound, because:

- An increase from **21** to **42** in our case (i.e. 20% of the parish) is too great
- Stage 2 of the Local Plan should have involved refining it rather than introducing a swinging increase
- The method of allocation appears purely arbitrary with no real understanding of what SRSs actually want or can deliver
- Our infrastructure will not support the increase (drainage already inadequate, power supply (e.g. for electric cars), Broadband, poor public transport, etc.)
- Local Plan places emphasis on smaller properties to support young families which are unlikely to be delivered in Lound

The various suggestions made by Will and Helen were carefully considered. All were rejected as they would involve a major re-working of our NP or leave the village exposed by rejection of the Draft NP by the independent examiner and/or non planned development.

The Steering Group have opened a dialogue with BDC officers for an early meeting to explore how the methodology of calculating new house numbers in SRSs might sensibly be apportioned more fairly. A redistribution of the requirement might be feasible as some SRSs wish to exceed their 20% target. Others share our view that the increase is too great.

Action: Andrew to arrange meeting.

Recommendation to Parish Council that: -

- Further progress on the Draft Plan be halted pending the outcome of discussions with BDC
- An Up-date to be issued to parishioners via The Crier and village website
- A petition be raised from residents and any other interested parties to oppose the increase in the new housing requirement. This needs to be done and lodged with BDC before 26 February 2020, when the consultation period on their Local Plan ends.

Action: Colin to draft statement for approval and arrange publication

Date of next Meeting: (Provisionally) Wednesday 12th February 2020 at 2.00pm. in the Village Hall