

Draft minutes of the Reach Neighbourhood Plan Project Group meeting held on
Wednesday 10th April 2019

Attendance:

Nick Acklam (Chair)	Present
Charlotte Cane	Present
Penny Greenhill	Present
Jo Riches	Present
Sarah Phipps-Rhodes	Not present
Catherine Gibson	Not present
Diana Ward	Present

Also: Jon Dunnett

Apologies for absence received and approved.

1. Minutes of last meeting all approved as read.

2. Actions from the last meeting not otherwise covered on the agenda.

- The Swaffham Prior alternative power representatives had been invited to come to a meeting on the 8th May. It was hoped that this would coincide with the Reach Annual Parish Meeting but this had been changed to the 15th. To advertise the 8th May meeting it was agreed to print leaflets and put through doors. Jo to contact Burwell Print for cost. Nick pointed out that funding for such things would not be available retrospectively.

- Nick is to meet with Ed Dade of the ECDC Strategic Planning Team. As Reach now has outline planning permission for two more houses outside the development envelope Nick will ask Ed how ECDC view future housing allocation in the village .

- The Group discussed NP funding, in particular consultancy fees, referring to Witchford and their NP funding. It was agreed that consultants would be necessary but their day rate doesn't go far against available funding and we would need to use them carefully. Diana thinks there is enough expertise in the village to avoid expensive consultants in some areas for example on environmental issues . Charlotte said that evidence base shows that using external support from professionally qualified planners is needed when the final assessment is produced. It was agreed that Nick would have initial telephone conversations with several consultants whose input to other NPs in the district has been well received to see if and how they would want to become involved in the Reach NP. Ideally the aim would be to get one or more to present to an NP meeting

- Diana referred to the Purton NP, which she said was 'relatively short' and where the only items to be queried were their policies. Environmental issues can be brief. The Reach NP needed to have 'crisp articulation' said Nick, it was important to get to the key points. Charlotte said it was important to talk to people who had already done a neighbourhood plan. Nick thought a planner was essential to pull all the work streams together and to produce a consistent do We may also need a lawyer to ensure that the document left no loopholes or vulnerabilities.

- Diana said she will provide an overview of planners and circulate a list to the Group. Charlotte thought we could use ACRE to get in a specialist. We need to choose carefully but someone is needed to draft and hone the document. Nick asked if others had started the NP process and given up, and if so why? The application process asked many questions - the more detail you put in the more detail was required, said Charlotte. We may be able to make a case for additional funding. Nick will research the scale of funding; he asked members of the Group to think of the areas needing additional expertise and to let him know.

- Nick had re-contacted Anglian Water and UK Power Networks, again without substantive response. ECDC had indicated that AW had some concerns about the designation of The Hythe as a 'green space' in LP 2018. The Group discussed possible reasons: are AW viewing it as possible building land; is Burwell sewage works at capacity meaning Reach works would still be needed? Diana asked if we needed the advice of a hydrologist, if so, AW should provide as their reasons for non response were not classified information. Nick will seek ways of getting answers from the utilities.

3. Reach NP launch event - Sunday 16th June midday onwards

- Jo showed the Group the agreed banner design and colour. Boards and a gazebo had been sourced. Availability of Reach photographs was discussed; we need a laptop projector. Nick to draw up a rota to man the stand on Reach Fair Day. A raffle could be held to get contact information of people interested in the NP. Penny to ask the Dyke's End for a lunch voucher (if feasible). Jo concerned about the siting of the stand at the Fair. It was agreed to provide pizza at the beginning of the launch.

4. Updates from work stream leads

- Jon Cane very interested in the heritage of Reach, he would be happy to run community archaeology in the village.
- Diana and David Thomas willing to do a BioBlitz in the village.
- Penny had contacted Historic England about the Church arch. They had suggested contacting the Listed Places of Worship Scheme who give out grants. Eleanor, the vicar, says surveyor reports suggest the arch is in a very poor condition, it might cost a lot to repair and success was not guaranteed. The PCC are now treating the church and arch as separate issues in respect of spending Maisie's legacy. To be discussed at the next PCC meeting on 18th April. Charlotte pointed out that any grant application would fail as the church has sufficient assets to repair the arch.

5. Skills audit

Charlotte is waiting for one person to finalise their profile, she will present at the next meeting.

6. AOB

- The Group discussed the article in *Within Reach* by Alex de Giorgio-Miller asking villagers to suggest items for inclusion in a grant application. This would include things such as bus-stop repair and additional benches.
- Jo asked PC members if information such as possible grants could be shared with the NP Group.

7. Dates of Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 24th April at 7.30 in Reach Village Hall.

If you have any enquiries regarding these minutes please contact Nick Acklam, Chair of the Project Group on 01638 743749 or email acklam@reach-village.co.uk