

ASHPERTON

Neighbourhood Planning Meeting

Parish Clerk: Janet Chester
Mapleside, Ashperton, Ledbury, HR8 2RZ
Tel: 01531 670036
e-mail: ashperton.pc@btinternet.com

Minutes of the Inaugural Neighbourhood Planning Meeting held on Tuesday 28th April 2015 at 7.30pm at Ashperton Village Hall

In the Chair:

Mrs F Helme (parish council chairman)

In attendance:

34 residents of the parish
Ms Karla Johnson – Herefordshire Council, Neighbourhood Development Team
Mrs Janet Chester – Parish Clerk

Apologies were received from:

Daphne Webster, Fran Morris, Jane Gaden, John Mather, David Crumpler, Alan Watkins, Richard Chester, Andrew Hammond, Alan Maude, Andrea Biddulph and Jenny Jones

Mrs Freda Helme welcomed everyone to the meeting.

A number of residents volunteered to form a Neighbourhood Steering Group:-

Andrew Hammond, Rowland Eustace, Jonathan Bills, Gordon Edwards, Mark Fry, David Midgeley, Nadine Schofield, Sam Scholefield and Andrew Tector.

Each briefly introduced themselves, advising how long they had lived in the village, their occupation and what skills and knowledge they could use to form the Ashperton Neighbourhood Plan.

Presentation on Neighbourhood Planning by Karla Johnson, support officer of Herefordshire Council Neighbourhood Development Team

Ms Johnson thanked the councillors for inviting her to the meeting and advised that she was the designated support officer for Ashperton's Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood Planning came about after the Localism Act 2011, introduced by the government to try to take some of the conflict and confrontation out of the planning process. It gives communities the opportunity to shape the place where they live, preparing the planning policy for their area, it deals with land use issues so communities can decide where houses and businesses go. A Neighbourhood Plan forms part of Herefordshire Councils planning policy. Neighbourhood Plans are not compulsory and cannot be used to stop development. A Neighbourhood Plan can only be instigated by parish councils, although the whole community should be involved in putting it together. A plan can cover a whole parish, part of a parish or more than one parish, but only one plan is allowed for each parish. It must generally conform with Herefordshire Councils Core Strategy 2011-2031 policies. The Core Strategy is due to be adopted summer/autumn 2015. Neighbourhood Plans are a vision for the parishes for the next twenty years.

What do you put in a Neighbourhood Plan? – settlement boundaries, sites allocated for affordable housing, suitable housing for the ageing population, sites for business and employment, protected buildings, open spaces and recreational areas, character policies and design of buildings if wanted.

How long does it take to do a plan?

It usually takes around 18 months to two years to complete a plan but they can be done quicker. It depends how often public meetings are held and how quickly the work is carried out. There are processes that have to be followed and some certain timeframes that have to be adhered to such as the various consultation periods.

How do you do a Neighbourhood Plan? –

The first thing to do is to designate the Neighbourhood Plan area and allocate the settlement boundary. It is easier if the plan uses the parish boundaries although this is not obligatory. Once the area is designated it is put out for consultation for a period of six weeks. When it is confirmed this becomes the designated area for five years.

Engage with residents, land owners, businesses, school, church and village hall. A survey questionnaire needs to be compiled to find out community issues. Hold a number of open meetings. The community must be involved from the start so that most vote favourably at the referendum.

Get professional advice on putting the plan together and putting the document into “planning speak” and policies with an evidence base to support the policies. Prepare the Plan and submit it to Herefordshire Council. It is then subject to an independent examination and if agreed there is a referendum of all electors in the Neighbourhood Plan area, if more than 50% of those voting are in favour, Herefordshire Council adopt the plan.

What help do Herefordshire Council provide?

Herefordshire Council can help with the plan. A support officer is designated to help with legal requirements, parish information and technical advice, and a number of guidance notes are available on their website www.herefordshire.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplan. They can help with provision of maps. They contact the statutory consultees such as Welsh Water, English Heritage, highways.

They will carry out strategic environmental assessments. Herefordshire Council also pay for the external examination of the plan and the referendum.

If a parish holds a Neighbourhood Plan it would receive 25% of Community Infrastructure Levy payments compared to only 15% to a parish without a Neighbourhood Plan.

There are a number of plans underway in Herefordshire at various stages and many nearing the end stages are available to view on Herefordshire Council website.

How much does a plan cost?

It is thought that the steering group would carry out most of the work voluntarily. Professional planning advice would have to be sought and there may be costs such as printing and postage and hall hire costs. The government has offered financial assistance in the form of a grant of up to £8000 which will be available in April to apply for.

The chairman thanked Karla for attending and advised residents that the steering group officers would be decided and the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 26th May.

The meeting closed at 9pm

The steering group members remained behind and the following roles were decided:

Chairman - Andrew Tector

Secretary - David Midgeley

Treasurer - Nadine Schofield