

Report by DB for EPC's Meeting (October 6th) re: Neighbourhood Plan

1. The SG met our NCC liaison officer on 19th October to discuss the then latest draft of the ENP. This was a good meeting & a redraft picking-up NCC's comments will, by 24th November, have been sent back to NCC for further discussion. NCC were supportive of the work done to date and there appear to be no major areas of dispute. In an unrelated meeting with the Director of Planning, he welcomed the approach to 'Landscape Protection' that we are taking, as supported by the initial consultation.
2. On the issue of the required Strategic Environmental Assessment (see last report), we have applied (to Locality) for and now been granted 'Technical Assistance' and an AECOM officer has been appointed to take the SEA forward. That said, I remain doubtful that it is required but must study guidance NCC's Environment officer has provided & then discuss it with her. We should assume NCC will 'stick to their guns' which will mean a delay of at least 7 months in progressing the NP.
3. Then, if the SG think it appropriate (we wish to avoid 'consultation fatigue' and their will, in due course, be a referendum on the ENP, anyway!), it is proposed that, before a pre-submission draft is formally submitted to the County Council under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, a further Parish-wide consultation will be undertaken.
4. When the pre-submission draft is formally submitted to it:
 - a. NCC will check that the necessary documents have been provided.
 - b. Following a minimum six-week period of publicity, NCC will arrange for an independent examination. It will also organise a public referendum, subject to the plan meeting the basic conditions at the examination stage.
 - c. Subject to successful completion of that process, the Neighbourhood plan's policies will, along with NCC's strategic policies, become part of the 'Development Plan' in accordance with which planning decisions are required to be made unless material considerations otherwise indicate.
5. **Action or resolutions required on November 24th:** None other than to note the content of this report.

12.11.21