

Progress on Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

At the parish council's May meeting (Min.20.05.16 refers) the current position was summarised:

- The Examiners report had been lodged with MSDC – The Examiner's had noted that there were no significant or substantial alterations. The few minor changes had the effect of strengthening the plan, particularly in respect of heritage.
- The plan was scheduled to be presented to MSDC Cabinet on 9th June for approval.
- The plan would go forward to a referendum, but that this would now be unlikely to take place before May 2021. MSDC would bear the cost of this and it would require 5 weeks notice.
- The plan had effectively been approved by the Examiner and Mid Suffolk DC. It bears weight and so should be used when considering planning applications and drafting responses.
- A referendum ready edition was ready for publication in print and on the council's website.

The meeting also resolved to authorise up to £150 to cover the cost of printing Drinkstone Neighbourhood Plan. These have now been delivered, at a total cost of £99.00.

Recognising that the process of developing the Neighbourhood Plan had uncovered huge talent and expertise which the Parish Council hopes to continue to draw on in the future, the Parish Council has made an initial start on incorporating community actions into a parish work.

The clerk has received correspondence from Daphne Youngs (Appendix A refers), outlining a recent planning decision by Mid Suffolk District Council in Thurston, which did not appear to take into account Thurston's adopted Neighbourhood Plan, giving more weight to its draft Local Plan.

Babergh Mid Suffolk District Council recently consulted on its draft Local Plan. There being no identified large sites in its draft for Drinkstone, and a number of the recent planning applications for new developments in Drinkstone having been included in their calculations for land supply, the Parish Council did not respond to the consultation.

Councillors are asked to consider whether to submit a formal expression of concern to MSDC.

From: Daphne Youngs <daphneyoungs248@gmail.com>
Sent: 28 September 2020 16:34
To: Peter Holborn; Haslett Schofield
Cc: Drinkstone Clerk
Subject: Thurston neighbourhood plan

Hello all

You may have read in the Bury FP about MSDC ignoring Thurston's "made" neighbourhood plan and approving development of another 171 houses in addition to those allocated in the NP.

I have spoken to the parish clerk, and Thurston will be going to judicial review. MSDC have upped the number of houses Thurston is required to provide in the latest iteration of the draft Local Plan. They have therefore decided that the draft local plan carries more weight than a made neighbourhood plan even though the Made plan carries force in law.

Their barrister will be using this as the case for overturning MSDC's eventual approval.

I am happy to brief the council at the next meeting. It would be useful for the council to consider a formal expression of concern to MSDC and to Penny Otton. Maybe even to our MP (it worked for broadband!) Also to get SALC involved to possibly coordinate PC responses. Other PCs are likely to have the same concerns.

District Councillors attending the planning committee meeting where this and another related application for another 200 houses were discussed, expressed the view that if MSDC were going to ignore them, then neighbourhood plans were a waste of time.

Exactly.
D

Sent from my iPad