Brief Notes from Neighbourhood Planning call with Ian Poole (Places4people) 6th Oct:

Attending:

Ian Poole, Sarah K, Keith W, Derek H, Helen F, Linda H, Fiona L, Kath, Louise W, Doug C, Gerry, Chris B, Ann R, Robin

The slide deck from this evening call will be available from the Neighbourhood Planning section of the village web site as soon as possible: <http://wherstead.onesuffolk.net/neighbourhood-planning/>

Action Ian Poole: Forward Robin a pdf copy of the slide deck.

Introduction:

Neighbourhood Plans can shape developments, but cannot stop developments that are already approved or go against local Plans or National guidelines.

Any objection to Joint Local Plans should be done separately as part of the public comment process for these documents.

Currently there are a total of 55 Neighbourhood Plans being prepared / completed in Babergh and Mid Suffolk

It is essential that all decisions / policies are evidenced based.

Wherstead has a number of constraints that must be considered, e.g. the AONB

Policies in the NP should address issues that require planning permission from the local authority. The Plan can also include community actions, e.g. road, anti-social behaviour.

Discussion:

1. The NP can specify different design guidelines for different areas of the village and different building types. It is possible to specify some ‘internal’ aspects of building, e.g. min room size.
2. Design guidelines can be applied to commercial and residential buildings
3. It is believed that the 75 new homes on Klondyke will meet the housing requirement for Wherstead. This may be confirmed in the next version of the Joint Local Plan. If not we can enquire to Babergh or have a housing needs assessment completed.
4. The current (adopted) Local Plan allows building outside of the settlement boundary if it is adjacent. This clause has been removed from the emerging Joint Local Plan.  
   The NP could state that all development has to be in the settlement boundary, outside the settlement boundary, only essential development would be permitted.
5. Energy efficiency of housing can be included, but must not be onerous (See Bentley Plan).
6. NP should ideally be no more than 60 pages and should not repeat any government of local policy.
7. NP can include Buildings of significance (need not be listed).
8. Previously discussions on a country park had taken place.
9. Environmental protections could cover: Protecting ancient hedgerows, creating wildlife corridors, Woodlands, Ponds or even planting for screening.
10. Development of the Stevins site would probably be limited due to potential flooding on the strand (only road access).
11. Wherstead would be entitled to £10k for the plan plus probably a further 8k for technical reports, e.g. design code.
12. Funding will only be provided to fund what can be spent until the end of the financial year.
13. A question was raised with regard to the new village residents and the timeline for this plan. If the plan is well advance, maybe even at the stage of a public vote and we have a large influx of new residents (Klondyke field), this may have the effect of changing the view of the residents. There does not appear to be a process in the system to manage this, we will just need to ensure that we keep all new residents informed.
14. Ian will need to charge VAT, but the grant is ex VAT, so we will need to re-claim (Sarah confirmed the Parish is able to reclaim VAT for this activity).
15. Ian will break his quotation for the support activities into phases.

Things about Wherstead that are ‘cherished’?

* Rural environment, Listed / historic buildings, Small community
* The natural environment and views.
* Greenspace & community
* I like its village atmosphere yet its close proximity to the city centre and transport links
* community, semi-rural, open spaces and access to open spaces
* The variety of settings and mixture of building types in one community

Things in Wherstead we would like to see improved?

* Stay as it is
* community spaces,
* Traffic issues, litter, too much commercial development (existing and planned).
* that community space, outside and in
* Community issue - reduction or management of traffic
* Less traffic, loss of community with the number of residents increasing, fear of more development and less areas to walk
* reduce the sense of engulfment by Ipswich
* Better cycle paths, more bins around the village,
* reduce noise pollution from docks, and bridge
* Cleaner air, more community facilities,
* Community facilities for a growing number of residents
* halls, playgrounds and gardens or Public Open Space
* More community facilities - less traffic - cleaner air

Robin Coates

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