

Neighbourhood Planning Summary Report

The full summary of responses to the parish council's consultation on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan, together with proposed changes identified by the planning consultant, Places4People, has now been made available to the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Subsequent to this, the planning consultant has produced a draft list of policy changes identified by the working group, and further additional changes which Places4People recommend be made as a result of the Worlington NP examination. Further additional changes may be identified by the planning consultant arising from recent NP examinations and these will need to be incorporated to give the draft plan the best chance of success.

Additionally, West Suffolk have now indicated that they will require an Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed site before the plan may be examined. The parish council may apply for a grant from Locality in the form of Technical Support for this (in the same way that Design Guidance and Site Masterplanning was undertaken by AECOM). The window for grant applications for Technical Support is expected to open in the next week or so, following which, if approved, a diagnostic call will be arranged before commencement of the Environmental Impact Assessment. This is likely to introduce a delay of some months before the draft plan may be submitted to West Suffolk and then on to the Examiner, as any policy changes identified as a result of the EIA will also need to be incorporated into the draft plan.

It is therefore proposed that the draft plan will be brought back to the parish council for consideration at its July meeting, to allow time for any additional changes identified by the planning consultant arising from Examiner comments of other Neighbourhood Plans.

Recommendation:

The Parish Council delegate authority to the clerk to apply to Locality for a grant to underwrite the cost of the Environmental Impact Assessment required by West Suffolk Council.