



Albatross Horizon

Proposal for The Ivers Parish Council for the commencement of a review of the Neighbourhood Plan

1.0 Overview of Planning Context

At this time the UK government is focussing on increasing the number of new homes that are built and has reviewed the National Planning Policy Framework. The Ivers is likely to continue as an area of focus for those tasked with identifying sites for both commercial and domestic development and the neighbourhood planning steering committee has identified policy areas, built environments and geographical locations for review and possible protection.

This proposal is based on an agile methodology that will enable the steering committee and council to lead on the work being undertaken, the evidence being gathered and, possibly, further community consultation. Once the evidence base is prepared and the council decides to proceed, planning policy specialists can be commissioned to assist with policy development leading to a reviewed Neighbourhood Plan.

Using this process will enable the steering committee to commence the process but not finalise policy development until the ongoing planning changes are decided and implemented including any Buckinghamshire Council target changes eg housing quotas.

2.0 Issues raised by Neighbourhood Planning Steering Committee

2.1 Current policy

- Wording to strengthen in some policies (MSA decision is the example)
- Review community assets register and linked policies
- Thorney Business Park area residential development policy to pursue
- Further protection for nature reserves
- Air quality actions to strengthen/include
- Further protect historic assets

2.2 Policy gaps

- Design principles and standards including for commercial buildings
- New residential housing areas
- Protection of areas around community assets
- Transport infrastructure to be aligned to development
- Car Parking in Iver
- Provision of community services linked to development
- Regeneration opportunities to link to development in specific areas
- Affordability of new housing to strengthen
- SME/incubator spaces to provide
- Alternative energy/community energy
- Thorney Regional Park
- Residential care facilities

3.0 Methodology to consider

- Steering committee meeting to consider items listed at 2.1 and 2.2 above and provide context and signposting to evidence. To include identification of planning application outcomes that did not meet with council/community approval; and identification of what went well. Steering committee to agree initial methodology and keep this under review. The list is so long that this might require 2 meetings to work through.
- To collect and collate evidence around issues identified. Steering committee members may wish to take on individual elements of 2.1, 2.2 and other issues identified. This is the largest part of the review at this stage and meetings recommended for 4 to 6 week periods. It will require research, collation, and publication on an accessible platform to ensure all steering committee members have access.
- Steering committee to consider the funding they wish to apply for and the technical assistance packages that would assist in developing the evidence base
- As the evidence base grows steering committee to consider appointing planning policy specialists who would provide an overview of the elements required in the evidence base for the issues being identified (suggest 2 days at this stage)
- Evidence base to be loaded to website in preparation for a review

4.0 Resources required

Neighbourhood Planning requires an 'engine room' that is committed and enabled to undertake the work. In general:

- The convening of the meetings, agenda and document preparation, minute taking.
- At the meetings - advice, picking up actions, assisting with action planning
- Following the meeting acting as a single point of contact for all actions being taken, keeping the project running, answering queries, collating the data.
- On occasions to attend meetings with partner organisations to seek information for the evidence base. To include NSIPs
- Collating the mapping of geographical data using the councils mapping system
- Keeping the steering committee updated with UK Gov and Buckinghamshire planning policy changes as well as linked policies such as those of the environment agency.

4.1 Initial assistance from Albatross Horizon

As a first stage I recommend that 2 days are commissioned to enable 2 face 2 face meetings of the steering committee to be facilitated and written up with an inaugural draft action plan setting out the (agile) process. The cost for the 2 days is £900 with mileage of £162 (2 journeys of 180 miles).

Following the 2 days allow a further day to apply for the identified technical packages and funding and draft the next part of the process to be considered by the steering group (partners to be contacted, resources to be sought, consultation felt to be important at this stage).

This will then enable the steering committee to consider what resource it wishes to commission in order to progress the collation of the evidence base.