

Community Consultation Report

Consultation held on 25th October, 2018 at St Nicholas Hurst School

Business and Land Owner Consultation

This consultation took place at the local primary school and was held between 4 pm and 8 pm on Thursday, 25th October.

Prior to the event, as many businesses as possible had been contacted using the list (94 businesses) and criteria methodology created by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group; this was either by email or letter (dated 29th September, 2018). In addition, in case some had been overlooked, social media was used to advertise the consultation to both landowners and businesses, on the Neighbourhood Plan Website, Twitter and Facebook.

Currently within the Wokingham Borough Council's [WBC] ongoing call for sites for the Local Plan Update [LPU]¹, there are 44 sites submitted for the Parish of Hurst; WBC were unwilling to provide names and addresses of the landowners who submitted the sites, but were willing to forward any correspondence to the site owners on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group which was sent on 24th September, 2018.

The event was a 'drop-in' event with a slightly different format to the three 'drop-in' consultations held previously in the village wards. On this occasion attendees were asked to complete a sign-in sheet with their name, company or if they were landowner with contact email or phone number, if they wanted further information. There was no 'wish list' but a large map of the parish was provided for reference, together with a map of the current settlement boundary within the parish. Handouts of the flow chart describing the neighbourhood plan process were available, which supplied Hurst Neighbourhood Plan contact and website details and attendees were encouraged to take one of these.

Three members of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group were in attendance, Wayne Smith, Lou Robinson and Howard Larkin (part).

There were 23 attendees in total.

Landowners:

In total, 15 Landowners attended of which 2 are agents for landowners and 1 is a major developer and 2 (jointly) are land promotion agents/developers. 12 already have sites in the LPU call for sites.

2 landowners (joint owners) discussed a parcel of land which had been submitted to the LPU which they would like to submit to the neighbourhood plan - they were asked to contact the NP Group with their proposals by email.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2#who-leads-neighbourhood-planning-in-an-area>

"If a local planning authority is also intending to allocate sites in the same neighbourhood area the local planning authority should avoid duplicating planning processes that will apply to the neighbourhood area. It should work constructively with a qualifying body to enable a neighbourhood plan make timely progress. A local planning authority should share evidence with those preparing the neighbourhood plan, in order for example, that every effort can be made to meet identified local need through the neighbourhood planning process". [Paragraph: 043 Reference ID: 41-043-20140306]

Most of the remaining landowners/agents had come to find out the status of the LPU with WBC, the progress of the NP and how this will run parallel to the LPU. There was one anomaly as 1 agent had a query regarding where his land was in the LPU call for sites; was concerned to find out that this was not showing on the most recent map and will investigate why this was the case and email the NP Group with his findings.

Businesses

Two people attended solely about their businesses. One, based at Beech Court was an Engineering Company and the other was a local publican. They both wanted information about the NP and the current status. Both were asked if there was anything they would like to see in the NP which would help their businesses, but neither had anything to add.

There were 7 landowners who also owned businesses within the parish, of these 7, 4 are farmers. Discussions were held about different options for their land and premises. Attendees were asked to contact NP Group with their ideas, should they so wish.

Residents

5 Residents came who were neither landowners nor businesses. They wanted to discuss some general planning issues, which were specific to their own circumstances and outside the scope of the event.