

Minutes of Neighbourhood Plan Public Meeting

Date: 14 November 2018

Venue: Redgrave Activities Centre

Present: Mike Denmark (Chairman of Parish Council) John Giddings (Working Group) Paul Bryant (Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Council)

There were 61 members of the public in attendance and one dog.

Mike Denmark opened the meeting and thanked Paul Bryant for coming to explain the workings of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Paul Bryant then used a comprehensive slide show to show the various stages that would need to be worked on to complete a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for Redgrave and the approximate time scales. He mentioned several useful websites which can be followed.

He stressed that the NP is a reflection of the residents' viewpoint and not the intervention of the NP working group. Key areas would need to be decided upon and incorporated into the policies that will form the NP.

He also stressed that the NP is not a mechanism for stopping new growth of the village. It is about the use and development of land.

He outlined funding that could be available and the financial advantage of drawing up a NP. A basic grant is up to £9K and an additional grant of up to £8K is available if certain criteria is met.

He suggested that the village should be clear about what they would like to happen, involving the community, the district council and the landowners.

The NP needs to be continually kept under review, evidence needs to be gathered from all sources and the community support needs to be assessed continually.

The question needs to be asked 'Is this right for us?'

Paul recommended that the working group corresponds with other local villages who are doing or have completed their NPs e.g. Lavenham, East Bergholt, Lawshall, Mendlesham, Stradbroke, Debenham and Botesdale with Rickinghall.

Questions from the public

Does the Plan have any legal status?

It has weight once it is submitted to the local authority and real weight once it gets to the final stage.

Why did the District Council say it had 5 years worth of the required land supply when it did not?

Mid Suffolk does not have 5 years worth of land supply. The basis on which calculations were made was altered.

As we are close to the border to South Norfolk do we have to cooperate with them?
We do not have to cooperate as such but we must be mindful of our neighbours.

Is Redgrave classed as a hinterland village and as such would we not be expected to contribute a large amount of new housing?

Paul was unable to answer this question but will look it up.

Does it make any difference that 50% of the houses in the village have been developed in the last 20 years and will this influence the number of houses needed?

It was advised that we look at what has happened in the past and what the community want for the future. What do the community want Redgrave to look like in 2036? Paul advised that it would be useful to do a comprehensive and up to date housing needs survey.

Can we include the monitoring of lorries passing through the village in the NP?
Lorries are not included in the plan - that is a matter for Highways.

Should we include businesses in the NP preparation?

Definitely - it is always good to find out the needs of the businesses in the village.

John Giddings then summed up the meeting and thanked Paul Bryant for his clear explanation. He also thanked all the members of the village for attending and showing their support.

A vote was held as to whether we should go ahead with a Neighbourhood Plan - there were 58 votes for and non against.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 27th November at 7 pm at The Cross Keys, Redgrave.