

**FLORE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
MINUTES OF STEERING GROUP MEETING**

Held at 7.30 pm on 29th October, 2014 at Rock Springs, Sutton Street, Flore

Attendees

Tom Higginson (TH) Chairman
Andy Anderson (AA)
Sue Kerrison (SK)
John Miller (JM)
Nigel Strang (NS)
Duncan Shepherd (DS)

1. **Apologies:** Rosemary Read, Damien Long, Geoff Fellows, Sue Halkett, Heather Anderson

2. **Kirkwells Reports**

(1) Draft Summary of consultation responses

(2) Draft paper – Vision, Objectives, Key Issues and Broad Policy Options

Claire Parker had recently circulated the two reports which summarises consultation responses to date; and the second which develops the recently agreed vision and objectives into key issues and broad policy options which will form the basis of the Draft Plans policies.

Summary of Consultation Responses

It was agreed that this was a good summary of the two consultation events held and the key issues.

Two additional issues were identified which may not be possible to take forward within the Flore Plan

The first concerned feedback on the desire for the return of a doctors facility within the village or better transport links with the existing surgery at Weedon. Given the small size of Flore, compared to Weedon and other larger centres, the Group concluded that the likelihood of securing a surgery within the village was remote and not achievable through the Plan.

The second issue concerned recreational facilities and the large number of comments seeking a multi-purpose sports centre/hall. This is clearly an aspiration however deliverability would require significant funding and given that the S106 for the two residential developments has already been agreed without funding for such a facility this may be difficult to achieve within the Plan period.

Draft Paper – Vision, Objectives, Key Issues and Broad Policy Options

Discussion took place on the sequential assessment of issues within the report. Transport appeared to be the key issue however the report followed the flow and order of the questionnaire. It was agreed that Housing is clearly the key issue for the village followed by landscape etc. The policy areas for the village (para 33 onwards) were in the right sequence.

Discussion on the policy areas for Flore NP followed:

General – The Group agreed that a boundary was essential. Discussion followed on the characteristics to be applied as to what constituted the village boundary ie existing housing and gardens and parcels of land with the benefit of residential planning permission (High Street and Muscott Close) as a starting point. AA and JM agreed to undertake to produce a draft boundary plan which could be tested with the Steering Group and Tom James at DCC.

Call for sites – The Group agreed that there would not be a call for sites as the two major planning consents within the village (granted by DCC during the development of the Flore NP) will produce the housing growth required for the period up to 2029 of a scale that is in keeping with what 'Flore should be'.

Housing – The policy areas identified in the report was supported. A mix of housing types is critical in layouts that add to the village character rather traditional suburban formats. Many respondents wanted smaller retirement homes/bungalows and starter family homes.

Design – The policy areas were again supported. Design criteria and guidance is critical. Draft text has already been supplied to Kirkwells based on the Village Design Guide.

Community Facilities and open space – The policy areas were again supported. The linear High Street village green needs to be identified both in terms of extent and also relationship with the potential layout of the High Street development. The incorporation of the balancing pond is an opportunity however responsibility for maintenance is an issue to be addressed?

A cluster of key village facilities can be identified which centres of the village shop/post office, garage and White Hart.

Transport and communications and Employment will be the subject of discussion at the next Steering Committee on the 10th November – 7.30pm Rock Springs.

TH

Post meeting note

It is important that the drafting of substantive policies takes place asap if we are to be able to produce our first draft plan in the new year. TH asked AA to lead on this with JM. AA agreed.