**Cawthorne Neighbourhood Plan**

**Open Meeting at the Village Hall**

**11.00am on Sat, 21 January 2017**

Present:

Cawthorne Parish Councillors – John Walker (Chair), Peter Kilner, Tony Butterworth, Margaret Broadhead,

Diana Asquith, Cynthia Hindley, Robert Barr, Sharon Pitt & Eric Ellis

Cllr John Wilson

Cllr Robert Barnard

Approx. 130 residents of Cawthorne

Cllr John Walker opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan process may take 2 years to complete and stressed that it was not a Parish Council project but a village project and would therefore need at least 10 members of the village with business acumen to be involved in the process. Members of the Parish Council and 2 Ward Councillors would also be involved, along with the added assistance of other local areas who have already started their own Neighbourhood Plans.

Cllr Tony Butterworth then gave an overview of what neighbourhood planning would mean for Cawthorne. Neighbourhood planning was introduced by the government under the Localism Act 2011 to allow communities to shape the future development of their area. It must conform in general to the Barnsley Local Plan and not block development.

It is different to the current village plan and design statement which are advisory documents which can be ignored. A Neighbourhood Plan is a statutory document which has to be taken into account by BMBC and proposed developers.

The Parish Council is deemed an acceptable body to promote a neighbourhood plan but it needs residents of the village to decide and promote their own ideas. Examples of things that can be included are :

* Restriction of certain types of development and change of use
* Protection and creation of open space, including sports fields and allotments
* Provision for business to expand or set up
* Renewable energy
* Protection of important buildings
* Transport and access

**Next Steps :**

**Phase 1** is carried out by the Parish Council who will :

* **Appoint a Planning** Consultant - The Parish Council has agreed to appoint Kirkwell’s, they have been involved with over 70 neighbourhood plans and the agreed fee is £8K.
* **Apply to central government for a grant to cover the fees** - Kirkwell consider there will be no problem in obtaining a grant and the fee is not payable until after the grant has been approved.
* **Advise BMBC and register the area of the plan -** ie. Parish boundary

**Phase 2 :**

* **Formation of a Steering Group** – they will oversee the preparation of the plan and will consist of a minimum of 6/8 people representing different private and commercial interests in the village plus those with specialist knowledge and general villagers.
* **Formation of Sub Committees** – the Steering Group may form these to deal with individual aspects of the plan such as design or open space.

**PLAN PREPARATION**

* The Plan has to be what the village wants to see so good communication with them around their views is paramount
* Dedicated website so villagers can comment easily
* Hold Open Meetings
* Visit village organisation meetings eg. Museum society, school and Over 60’s
* Prepare a household survey
* Meet with major land-owners and industry

Once all consultations are complete a draft plan will be prepared. This is subject to a statutory consultation period of 6 weeks.

Amendments will be made, if required, and the final draft sent to BMBC and an external examiner (appointed by the government) who will assess the plan against the criteria set out in the localism plan. Kirkwell’s will ensure we do not breach this obligation.

Following the external examiners approval the plan will go to a referendum in the village and will then require a 51% approval to become a statutory document. Assuming the 51% is achieved the plan will become a statutory instrument for all planning applications in the Parish of Cawthorne.

Cllr Butterworth then went on to explain why we need this long process to take place. He confirmed that for the first time we will have a legal document that cannot be ignored and in addition we will be the beneficiary of 25% of any community infrastructure levy payable to BMBC for developments in the parish.

Now is the time for the residents of Cawthorne to have their say on the plan for the future of our village as without their help this cannot happen.

Cllr Robert Barnard then addressed the meeting and confirmed that Neighbourhood Plans have been adopted by various local areas eg. Oxspring, Penistone and Silkstone are also considering one. He also confirmed it is entirely down to the villagers themselves as to whether they want a plan and not the decision of Councillors. The Plan cannot be used to stop development but will give the village some control as to how and what type of development is undertaken eg. restriction of the number of storeys. He also confirmed that Borough Councillors will give every support they can to the plan.

**Questions from the floor:**

1. **Clarification regarding position of allotments most of which are on land owned by Cannon Hall Estate** – It was confirmed that Council owned allotments do have statutory protection and Cllr Walker stated that allotments are he last areas which can be taken for building land. We will need to look at the deeds to see what restrictions are placed on them. A member of the allotment committee would be welcomed on the Steering Group, however it was stated that there is no actual committee.

Further discussion took place in respect of the allotment area to the rear of the Methodist Chapel which was identified as the proposed exit for the recent residential proposal, the land for which is now safeguarded until 2033. Protection of this area can be included in the plan.

It was also noted that a government owned allotment requires an Act of Parliament before such land can be developed.

1. **Would the majority of the Advisory Plan be put into the Neighbourhood Plan? –** It was confirmed that this would be the case and that both previous plans would form part of it.
2. **How do we access the Plans to read them?** – As only paper copies exist at the moment it was confirmed that copies would be scanned and put onto the website.
3. **What does the 51% majority refer to, is it the electorate of the village or households?** – It was understood this referred to households but would check this.
4. **What about the condition of the roads, will the plan help to improve these? –** It was confirmed that the condition of the roads was the responsibility of BMBC but the Neighbourhood Plan will try to get as much for the village as possible.
5. **The use of social media was suggested to improve communication with the whole village –** It was confirmed it was a priority to reach every household in the village and to this end a household survey would be held which would be delivered to every house. Chris Scorah offered his assistance with this. A dedicated website will be set up and consideration given to use of social media eg. facebook page
6. **When the plan is in place does this have to be reviewed/revisited every few years? –** No this was not necessary.
7. **Is the plan just about the development of the village? –**  It was confirmed that it can include any areas people want to be included and which require planning permission.
8. **Can amendments be made to the plan?** – It was confirmed that the plan once approved cannot be changed but can be replaced.
9. **If members of the Steering Committee leave during the process can new members be co-opted onto it?** – It was confirmed that if someone resigned then they would be replaced.

Following the question and answer session Cllr Walker asked all present to vote by a show of hands whether they agreed to the Neighbourhood Plan going ahead – this was unanimous.

People were then invited to offer their help by leaving their email addresses/phone numbers.