

Neighbourhood Plan – Stakeholders meeting 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Thanks to Teresa for organising the event, inviting the stakeholders and for giving up her time to help on the night.

Thanks to Nigel for introducing the evening and explaining the background into the process so far.

Thanks to Paul Gordon for travelling over and giving up his time to present the latest situation to the stakeholders and answer questions.

A successful Neighbourhood Plan (NP) forms supplementary planning guidance which must be adhered to by developers. So this is a worthwhile piece of planning policy.

We are in a slightly tricky situation as Sheffield City Council (SCC) is currently redrawing the Local Plan (LP) – and NP's must be in line with LPs. So we're working with SCC in order to coordinate our findings.

We expect/hope to finalise the plan at some point in 2017.

Paul explained the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money situation. Neighbourhoods with NPs can decide how 25% of this money is spent, so giving more local control over development of infrastructure.

Paul talked us through the predictions of housing demand growth and how many homes Sheffield is looking to find room for. The Sheffield Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) suggest 2.270/year are required over the next 20 years. Basically we need more housing in the UK and some of it will be in our area – and, most likely, in our green belt. We will find out more about this when SCC publish the Strategic Options, probably early in the new year.

We also need to think about the potential for job creation.

The NP will allow locals to have a say in preserving what makes Stocksbridge unique, as well as hopefully, making it a better place to live. We can protect the most important areas and decide where development should go and what it should look like.

We have been designated as a NP area – lead by Stocksbridge Town Council - and have begun collating evidence. The next stage for us is consultation with the local population. The NP must be evidence based and reflect the desires of local people; it is a bottom-up process. It must also pass a referendum before it is formally adopted – so we need buy-in from local people.

The steel works has reduced over the years so we have shrinking employment in the area. Paul pointed out that the area is a 'dormer town' in that most people who live here travel out of the area to work each day. We may have to accept our future as an area with lots of housing and little employment – or we could use the NP to try and counter this and develop a new vision for the area – possibly as a destination area for outdoor activities.

So there is great potential.

Our next meeting is on Wed the 25<sup>th</sup> November 7pm at the Town Hall.