

## Report and update from Public Meeting Jan 2015

The open meeting held in the Village Hall on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2015 was very well attended with over 140 residents taking the time and interest to both come and listen to a brief introduction by Counsellor Roberts, stay to ask questions from task group coordinators as well as put their names forward to get more involved.

Counsellor Roberts first welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming and then outlined the aims of the meeting which were to:

- explain what has already been achieved
- give some more details about the neighbourhood plan
- introduce the team and the different areas for the task groups
- explain how to get involved and help the team develop a viable neighbourhood plan for our village

The last 12 months

In January 2014 the Parish Council held a public meeting in St Stephen's Church to introduce the concept of a Neighbourhood Plan and gauge public support. Over 100 residents attended and an initial Steering Group was set up. This then looked at the area the plan should cover and formally applied to Lichfield District Council (LDC) in order to set up the Neighbourhood Plan which became official in April 2014. The first action was in deciding the Vision and Objectives for the plan, again completed in April 2014.

The Vision and Objectives of the plan include some can and can't dos:

Can dos:

- help developers to understand what villagers want by way of facilities, parking etc and how to avoid issues that exist on Fradley South
- influence LDC as to conditions put on the developers in terms of construction traffic and other infrastructure issues
- decide the restrictions that can be enforced on future developments
- identify suitable areas for future development after 2029

Can't dos:

- stop sites being developed that already have outline planning permission:
  - o Airfield site – 1000 homes
  - o Hay End Lane – 250 homes

(Brookfields – 70 homes – speculative at present)

At the end of April, the Steering Group had the first meeting with Barratt homes and LDC regarding the Hay End Lane development resulting in a preview of the detailed planning when submitted before public consultation. Through this meeting a number of issues relevant to the site were identified including timing and numbers of construction traffic and the burden of extra sewage on an already overburdened system.

Over the following months these issues were addressed as well as attending other meetings with the developer resulting in some positive outcomes.

Sewerage Task Group report: A series of ongoing problems around the village between 2007 – 2014 and correspondence with Severn Trent Water (STW) , Environment Agency, Lichfield District Council, Mr Michael Fabricant, MP has raised these issues.

We are now awaiting a confirmation date for sewerage upgrade. STW plan a £2m exercise. The Dumore Hay Lane Pumping Station is to be enlarged with a bigger pump. Pipes will be rerouting the sewerage away from the current route to Alrewas and leading down to Curborough Treatment Plant.

We have been assured by the Environment Agency that this work must be done before the 250 houses at Hay End Lane are ready as there is currently insufficient capacity to cope with extra houses.

There is a discrepancy in dates, but we are hopeful that this will be finalised satisfactorily.

Traffic Task Group report: a Traffic survey was commissioned by an independent consultant to assess whether the route of the construction traffic and development traffic would be safe along Fradley Lane and joining the A38. This highlighted a number of issues that will help up with the conditions placed on the developer.

Communications: Publicity for this event was extensive including flyers delivered by volunteers to each household, banners around the village, posters in shops etc, email contacts and Facebook updates. Development of the website is ongoing.

At the end of 2014 the steering group consulted with Will Chapman from neighbouring Alrewas Neighbourhood Plan group as they have finished their plan and submitted it for inspection. They had a large amount of public support as evidenced from their questionnaire returns of 700 from 1200 distributed to every house in the village. They had narrowed down their questionnaire to 108 questions!

Hence we need your support and this has led to the holding of the open meeting to gain help and support for each task group and its coordinator. At present the steering group only consists of 11 permanent members and even these have changed since its inauguration.

#### Task groups: why get involved?

*Housing* – have a say on size and future developments, types of housing, car parking, locations

*Transport* – interested in keeping the village safe and ensure other transport opportunities exist

*Environment* – Keeping wildlife and habitats safe, protecting the countryside and way of life, maintaining our 'big sky views' and the reasons for being in a village community

*Facilities* – have a say in what facilities you want in the village such as doctors, schools, pub and recreational features

*Communication* – help communicate with people, promoting the Neighbourhood Plan and its importance to our community, keeping residents informed, development of the website and e-communications.

Forms to express interest were handed out on arrival and over 40 were returned. The task group coordinators are now reviewing these and contact will be made shortly. We need lots of experience/skills/interest in planning, architects, transport, website knowledge, writing surveys, environment, leisure and facilities.

So get involved, your village needs YOU.

Contact Simon Roberts on 07709 433493