

Queniborough's Quest for a Neighbourhood Plan begun

Some people don't believe that a Neighbourhood plan will make any difference but, having one in place which links into Charnwood's Local Plan, supported by the village gives Queniborough real 'planning teeth'. Having a good and well supported Neighbourhood Plan in place will make a real difference when it comes to future planning decisions.

If there had been a plan in place, linked to Charnwood's Local Plan, you can be assured that some of the recent planning decisions regarding the new houses being built throughout Queniborough would not have gone ahead in the same way.

That is why it's important for the whole village to be behind this process.

We had a good start because; fifty people attended the two drop-in sessions at the end of January, early February. All their concerns were captured and were collated into five categories for further work: - Housing Development; Infrastructure; Nature Conservation; Traffic and Village Conservation Area.

At the sessions people were asked to register their email addresses and indicate whether they would like to be involved as a Steering Group member to kick start the process. Twelve people asked to be on the Steering Group and have already met on three occasions.

At the first meeting, hosted by Pam Jones, Kate Hill and Phil Laughton the Steering Group were brought up to date on progress so far, how we would obtain funding for the process and the issues raised at the Drop-in sessions. A draft Steering Group Constitution was also unveiled and debated.

Elections of Officers then took place and were agreed as follows:-

Chair: Pam Jones

Vice Chair: Liz Ellis

Secretary: Kate Hill

Treasurer: Mike Duxbury

Other members are:- Mike Bunn, Dinah Hurwood, Dick Hurwood, Mike Jones, Ben King, Phil Laughton, Paresh Patel/Carol Shaw and John Weston.



Next steps were then agreed as: - Finalising the Constitution; meeting and appointing appropriate Consultants (who apply for the funding to pay for their costs), agree a code of conduct, develop a communications strategy and decide what working groups we will need in the future.

At the next two meetings we agreed the Constitution, met and evaluated three consultants, discussed a draft communications strategy and all completed Declaration of Interest forms.

A lot completed in very little time. Our overall objective is to have the Queniborough Neighbourhood Plan in place within a two year period. We have a strong committed Steering Group in place and will need more good people to support the process over the next two years.

We have agreed to meet on the last Tuesday of each month and our Communication Strategy will ensure that you are kept up to speed on a regular basis; it will also be looking to attract you into helping us when we need it and we will need your help.

Until we have our communications properly in place, if you would like more information or like to get involved please contact Mike Jones via email on Jones.michael8@sky.com or telephone on 0116 260 7773. Thanks in advance.

Pam Jones, for and on behalf of the QNP Steering Group.