

Urban Imprint Meeting

Date of meeting: 29 March 2018

Location: Offices of Urban Imprint, 16-18 Park Green, Macclesfield

Present:

Bob Phillips (BP) – Director, Planner & Urban Designer – Urban Imprint

Jo Gregory (JG) – Senior Planner & Urban Designer – Urban Imprint

Myles Garbett (MG)

Julie Allison (JA)

Mark Allison (MSA)

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1** MG outlined the background to the AE Neighbourhood Plan – questionnaire, public meeting etc. He said there had been a lot of interest after the Public Meeting and this enabled the formation of sub groups to deal with the different areas within the NP.

MSA explained that the sub groups formed comprised of Infrastructure & Transport, Housing & Development, Local Economy, Heritage & Character and Community & Wellbeing.

The first two groups have met on several occasions and have a reasonable number of people involved and the aim is to build on the momentum and skills of the people while avoiding abortive work. Both groups feel that they need some professional advice on policy writing and help achieving the broad goals that they hope the NP can encompass.

The latter three groups are just getting established with their work.

- 1.2** BP outlined that Urban Imprint can help us achieve our goals and have extensive experience of helping NP groups write their plans. They prefer to work with groups at our stage before policies have been prepared so that they can advise the NP group and policies can be written that are succinct and compact. He asked how many policies there might be in the NP, it was felt that around twenty might be appropriate.

- 1.3** BP pointed out that Housing & Infrastructure are usually the key areas requiring most input into NP. Parking and Affordability are often controversial topics.

In relation to Affordability it would be easier to see how aspirations could be covered with NP policies once the allocation of sites by Cheshire East has progressed.

The policies in the NP cannot contradict the Local Plan however Urban Imprint can help us with wording that will achieve a robust Affordable Housing policy amongst other things.

BP advised that he had heard recently that the Cheshire East Local Plan part 2 should be issued for consultation in about 5 months' time.

- 1.4** Timescale was discussed, and it was felt that we should aim to have a emerging NP in place by the end of the year. There is a time window from April to mid-July where the sub-groups would like to make progress on draft policies with guidance from Urban Imprint. There will then be a natural break over the summer period and groups can reconvene in September.

There will need to be some further public consultation process before Regulation 14 consultation to ensure that draft policies are responding to public concerns on local issues.

The leadership of the Steering Group is still to be finalised by the Parish Council. JG commented that it was not unusual for the chair of the Steering Group for an NP to be a Parish or Town councillor and in the case of Uttoxeter the chair was the local MP.

2.0 Next actions

Urban Imprint to prepare outline scope of works and fee proposal for NP Steering Group to discuss on 4th April.

Subject to the above and agreement of the Parish Council, Urban Imprint are to attend the Housing Group Meeting on the 25th April.