

## **Masham Neighbourhood Planning Meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

### **Present:**

Neil Pickard, Masham Parish Council, Flo Grainger, Masham Parish Council, Christopher l'Anson, l'Anson Bros Ltd, Graham Jameson, WE Jameson & Son Ltd, Lord Mark Cunliffe Lister, Swinton Estate & Swinton Park Country Club & Spa, Jan Reed, Making of Mashamshire (Heritage), Howard Mountain, Chairman Kirby Malzeard Parish Council

### **Apologies:**

Lucy Scott Paul, Masham Connections, John Ellis, Masham Parish Council, Rosemary Blades, Masham Parish Council, Paul Theakston, Black Sheep Brewery & Masham Community Office, Reverend David Cleeves, St Marys Church, Jim Dalton, Masham Primary School, Mark Ellis, Masham Sports Association, John Brearley, Fearby & Healey Parish Council, Martin Falshaw, Masham Farmers Auction Mart, Rob McDonald, Website Developer, Judith Richards.

### **Introduction:**

Neil Pickard updated those present on the progress that had been made since the April meeting. Our formal application to create a Masham Neighbourhood Plan had been submitted and accepted by Harrogate DC. The official designation took place on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018. Harrogate BC have already created some publicity regarding this status and have sent to us a poster that needs to be displayed in prominent places around the town and surrounding area. A copy has been attached: **ACTION: All to help displaying this poster where appropriate.**

Neil indicated that it was not possible to apply for the grant funding (up to £9,000) from Locality until we have clear plans on how we intend spending this money with quotations against the key elements of the expenditure. Harrogate DC appear to be insisting on a Masham Neighbourhood Plan website as one of our first areas of expenditure. Rob McDonald, a local person, had given an indicative cost of about £3,000 for creating this through his company but it may be possible to obtain cheaper quotes. We should all look at other Neighbourhood Planning websites to gain an understanding of what is possible and how we would wish it to be designed. Other local examples include Dishforth, Knaresborough, Appleton Roebuck and Horsforth. **ACTION: All to look at the alternatives and to pass comments to Neil for him to seek to take forward prior to our next meeting.**

Another area of potential expenditure resulting from our last meeting was to obtain the views of a 'flooding expert' to give their views on the Environment Agency flood map which Jameson's proved to be inaccurate when seeking for outline planning permission for their Foxholme Lane site. Graham indicated that using the services of their expert would not be cheap but we need to investigate the likely cost and what would be involved: **ACTION: Neil, Graham and Martin Falshaw.**

Neil outlined that he and Flo had recently attended the Swinton Estate appeal hearing for the outline application for 80 houses at the Grewelthorpe Road site. The outcome of the appeal is not likely to be known for a further 3-5 weeks. Within our discussions he suggested that we should assume that either this site would gain approval or that within the next 5-15 years we could expect alternative sites within the town to provide at least this level of expansion. A working assumption of at least 150 additional houses, compared to the current situation, appeared likely and would be required to help Harrogate DC meet its housing need targets.

## Discussion:

Those present indicated that the first priority was to collect available data and gather together more facts on a range of issues that were likely to be affected by the increased housing development. The following topics were covered which are considered to be important for the parish going forward:

- **Education:** Masham Primary School is currently above the capacity that is set for the school and a large intake of children started school in autumn 2018. Recent information suggested that at least 1 child now living in Masham was refused a place at the school due to the current capacity limit. Acorns pre-school learning is also over capacity. High level talks with North Yorkshire Education Department must be a priority for our Neighbourhood Plan and we will provide support to the school to assist with this. **ACTION: Jim Dalton/Neil/Rosemary/ Jan Reed to take this element forward.**
- **Utilities (Electricity/Gas/Water/Waste/Internet):** Our key issue at the current time appears to be the capacity of the sewage works. Discussions with the appropriate personnel in Yorkshire Water need to take place to ensure we understand the facts and their potential future plans. **ACTION: Mark Cunliffe Lister/ Paul Theakston/Neil to take forward.**
- **Transport/Highways/Parking/Bus Service:** Since the last meeting the Parish Council has introduced the Short Term Parking signage within the Market Place and the Long Term signage on the Shooting Holme. Following some concern regarding the 2 hour waiting limit this now appears to be working satisfactorily with a noticeable increase in car numbers on the Shooting Holme. This is confirmed by the increased takings in the Honesty Box at that site. The amount of inappropriate on-street parking that leads to traffic congestion is still a major issue that causes concern. The possibility of a relief road around Masham, from Leyburn Road to Grewelthorpe Road, should be investigated with the North Yorkshire Highways Department as a potential long term solution as should further parking restrictions in the short-medium term.  
**ACTION: Volunteers to take this aspect forward are required, if interested E Mail Neil.**
- **Heritage:** Jan Reed updated those present on the status of the 'Making of Mashamshire' initiative. Progress is currently being held up by the identified premises currently being up for sale. Both this and alternative sites are being further investigated. Our heritage and the protection of it in the future is wider than this single initiative. **ACTION: Jan/Chris/Graham to take forward**
- **Health & Recreation:** Mark Ellis sent his apologies due to other work commitments. It is understood that the Masham Sports Association plans to modernise and enlarge the facilities on the recreation ground, and to future proof the building against flooding, are still in the developmental stage with grant funding being actively sought. Talks with the England Cricket Board are still ongoing. It is interesting to note that the Keep Fit sessions held in the Town Hall for the more elderly residents have reported well in excess of 30 people attending sessions. **ACTION: Mark Ellis/Neil to take forward**

- **Health Care:** It is important that we understand the likely additional pressure on the Doctor's practise and whether they will have the capacity to care adequately for an enlarged population. They are holding an open meeting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 in the Town Hall. **ACTION: Those present to seek to engage with the appropriate personnel. Neil to attend.**
- Other areas that we did not discuss at this meeting but that should not be forgotten include: **Conservation/Environment/Green Spaces: Public Services (Welfare/Policing/Fire & Rescue): Employment Creation.**

**Conclusion:** Although the attendance was a little disappointing it proved useful to gain an update on what had happened and allowed some discussion on the possible way forward. It is important that we maintain dialogue with Joe Varga from Harrogate DC and with this in mind Neil will organise a further meeting with him and invite others to join him when a date has been fixed. It is also believed that we require some guidance from others who have already created a Neighbourhood Plan and we will ensure such an input at our next meeting. Chris l'Anson suggested that we need to create a clear vision of how we wish to see Masham develop and with this in mind we all need to give this thought prior to the next meeting.

The date of the next meeting was suggested as December/January which will give some time to progress many of the above actions. It is believed that we need to open future meetings up to more residents and potential volunteers.

**Neil Pickard**

**September 2018**