

## **Masham Neighbourhood Planning Meeting: 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018**

### **Present:**

Neil Pickard, Masham Parish Council

John Ellis, Masham Parish Council

Flo Grainger, Masham Parish Council

Rosemary Blades, Masham Parish Council

Paul Theakston, Black Sheep Brewery & Masham Community Office

Christopher l'Anson, l'Anson Bros Ltd

Graham Jameson, WE Jameson & Son Ltd

Lord Mark Cunliffe Lister, Swinton Estate & Swinton Park Country Club & Spa

Reverend David Cleeves, St Marys Church

Jim Dalton, Masham Primary School

Val Horspool, Acorns Pre-School Group

Mark Ellis, Masham Sports Association

John Brearley, Fearby & Healey Parish Council

### **Apologies:**

Lucy Scott Paul, Masham Connections

Martin Falshaw, Masham Farmers Auction Mart

Tessa Klemz, Masham Community Office

Gillian Ritchie, Harrogate District Council

### **Introduction:**

Neil Pickard and Paul Theakston updated those present on why they believed that we required a longer term vision for Masham and for us to gain more local input into planning decisions that were currently being shaped by Harrogate District Council.

### **Discussion:**

The following topics were covered which are considered to be important for the parish going forward:

- **Employment:** We have some major employers in the parish notably, Swinton Park Country Club and Spa, l'Anson Bros Ltd, WE Jameson & Son Ltd, Black Sheep Brewery & Bistro and Theakston's Brewery together with other smaller manufacturing units and many retail outlets and catering establishments. It was believed that there was still a demand for more commercial premises, particularly of a start-up size, as it is accepted that business growth and amalgamations lead to continual movement in this market place. The majority of

employees of our largest employers do not currently reside in Masham and therefore it would be helpful to them if more affordable accommodation could be provided within the parish.

- **Education:** Masham Primary School is currently above the capacity that is set for the school and a large intake of children is registered for autumn 2018. With significant additional housing planned further growth in numbers is anticipated. The short term measure is more temporary classroom space but due to the restricted area of the site the long term solution must be a larger school on a new permanent site. Developing a Neighbourhood Plan could help in the negotiations for a new build with the Education Authority.  
Our pre-school facility, Acorns, located at the rear of the Community Office is already at full capacity (20 spaces) and children are currently been turned away. As more pre-school 'free' hours need to be provided this demand is likely to increase further and Acorns are actively looking for larger suitable accommodation to cope with increased numbers as a matter of urgency.
- **Health & Recreation:** Mark Ellis informed the meeting of the Masham Sports Association plans to modernise and enlarge the facilities on the recreation ground in order to offer an opportunity for more juniors and female teams to enjoy sport. Plans costing between £150k-400k have been considered but the upgrade chosen will be dependent upon the level of grant aid funding that can be sourced. One of the driving forces behind these improvements is to make the facilities more flood resistant as insurance is getting more difficult to obtain. Talks are at an advanced stage with the England Cricket Board as the main potential sponsor.
- **Transport/Highways/Parking/Bus Service:** Many residents and business owners are concerned with the volume of traffic through the town and the increased parking that is taking place particularly on Park Street and on the junction of Swinton Road. The possibility of a relief road around Masham, from Leyburn Road to Grewelthorpe Road, was discussed and whether this should be considered in the longer term planning. Seeking to limit the Market Square to Short Term parking only, perhaps with certain exceptions, may result in less on-street parking. Masham is currently poorly served with public transport.
- **Utilities (Electricity/Gas/Water/Waste/Internet):** Throughout 2017 Yorkshire Water had to tanker a significant number of loads of waste water away from the sewerage works due to either under capacity or technical failure. An expanding number of business or residential users is likely to exacerbate the problem and reassurances need to be sought. It is believed that the electricity availability is close to capacity but again the position is not fully understood as conflicting message are given out. Internet speed in Masham appears good but the provision in our more remote parts of the parish require improvement.
- **Heritage:** It is important that we maintain our heritage and build upon it. The 'Making of Mashamshire' initiative should be supported.
- **Conservation/Environment/Green Spaces:** There are several circular walks within the parish that should be maintained and promoted. The Oak Leaf Trail is one such example. It is important that we maximise the opportunities to protect our environment particularly in relation to flooding. The Environment Agency flood map of Masham has been proven to be inaccurate and requires further challenge.
- **Public Services (Welfare/Policing/Fire & Rescue):** We need to be aware of the provision that we receive and make sure that current levels are maintained or enhanced. It is believed that not having a nominated police officer covering our parish is a weakness that needs to be rectified. Masham would also benefit from having some assisted living accommodation in

order that long-term residents are not forced to leave the area when their health deteriorates in later life.

- **Housing:** The consensus is that Masham will require a further 120-150 homes over the next 20-30 years. The Foxholme Lane site (Jameson's) is likely to provide up to 60 of these as planning permission with conditions has already been granted for these. It was suggested that there is a shortage of bungalows within the town and that it is important to provide suitable accommodation for the elderly as people continue to live longer. More affordable homes for first time buyers and those seeking to get on the property ladder are also important.

**Conclusion:**

There was agreement from the meeting that Masham Parish Council should act as the qualifying body and that an application should formally be made to register to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. The neighbourhood area should cover the whole parish of Masham which includes the wards of Masham, Burton-on-Yore, High and Low Ellington and Swinton with Warthermarske.

**Action:**

- Neil Pickard will draft the application to start the formal process and will bounce it off Paul Theakston prior to submission.
- Notes from the meeting will be circulated to all those that attended.
- Grant funding to cover future expenses will be sought from Locality
- Once approval has been granted a further meeting, open to all, will be arranged and at that meeting volunteers will be required to take the different aspects of the evidence building forward.

**Neil Pickard**

**May 2018**