



Neighbourhood Plan – Update for Parish Council Meeting 7th September 2015

We are making slow but steady progress on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Salhouse.

Over the summer the group have been working on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Document and the matrix for sustainability compliance.

The initial draft of the SA Scoping Document has now been all but completed – there are a few ‘tweaks’ needed before we can submit it to BDC for integrity testing. We do anticipate that it will need to be amended before it is finally completed as this particular part of the NP process does seem to bounce back and forth between the parish and BDC a fair bit before finalisation. We will be meeting with BDC at the end of September / early October to hopefully finalise this.

The matrix I referred to is basically a cross check to see that the policies put forward in our NP are consistent with higher level policies. We have to check each policy against overlying existing requirements where relevant. We have completed this exercise with the Environmental policies but have yet to do it with the Employment and Housing policies. This document does not have to be ready until the pre submission consultation.

In terms of outstanding work and timings, once the SA Scoping Document is acceptable BDC will pass them to other bodies to approve – the Environmental Agency, Natural England and Historic England. We in the meantime can carry on with finalising policies and cross checking compliance on our matrix.

Alongside all of this we are preparing the NP itself. Much of the wording is repeated from the SA scoping document in addition to the policies themselves. The policies on Environment and Employment have been drafted and we are near to completing the Housing Policies. Once the initial drafts are completed we will discuss these with the PC and BDC. (PC to ensure that the PC remains happy with the proposals and BDC to check for any ambiguity and integrity testing to ensure that we are not submitting proposals that cannot legally be included in a NP).

Once this is done we will be holding another open day to consult formally on the draft plan and sustainability appraisal, in accordance with Neighbourhood Planning Regulation (known

as the pre submission consultation). This involves publicising and consulting on the draft plan for a 6 week period. After consultation we need to document all comments and note our responses. If the plan needs to be changed following consultation feedback, this will be done and the plan then submitted to BDC to arrange the remaining statutory requirements. They then have to give a formal 6 week consultation period for comment by stakeholders and statutory bodies such as Broads Authority before submitting it to independent examination. During that period we need to collate our evidential material for inclusion in the documents to be submitted for examination. On the assumption that there is no major problem from the examination BDC will then organise the referendum,.

We are currently aiming for the pre submission consultation around the end of November. BDC tell me that after our 6 week consultation period and submission of the final NP to them we can expect their processes to take about 6 months. (For example, the Plumstead final plan was submitted to BDC in November 2014 and the referendum was held in June 2015).

If we are able to get our documentation to BDC in January we are therefore looking at around June / July next year for the referendum.

N Taylor

Chairman, Salhouse 2020+