

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP**

**Minutes of Meeting held in All Saints Church  
on Tuesday 20 October 2015 at 10.30 a.m.**

**Present:** Mrs Verplancke (Chairman); Mrs Bamberger (Secretary); Mr Paul Hayward (Clerk); Mrs Brickill; Mrs Hubbard; Mr Larcombe.

One member of the public (Mr Coltham), and also Cllr Andrew Moulding who came at 11 a.m.

**Apologies:** Mrs Barnard (resigning); Mrs Betterton; Mr Forbes.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Hayward, who has joined the Group as Clerk. He explained the present stage of the EDDC Local Plan. The Planning Policy Officer is Mr Matt Dickins.

From the floor, Mr Coltham asked if developments in Axminster affect us? Mr Hayward answered that the northern end of the proposed relief road would come in to All Saints parish.

In answer to a second question, Mr Hayward said that conformity to planning rules is dealt with by Mr Thickett, the Planning Inspector. Our Group can get help with conformity from Lisa Turner, Blackdown Hills Planning Officer, and an independent consultant. At the moment, NPPF rules obtain.

Mrs Hubbard asked whether, if a parish has a Neighbourhood Plan, it is relevant without a Local Plan? Mr Hayward said it is not, but EDDC is producing the LP - consultation ends on 30 November, and it should be ready in early 2016.

Chairman: What should be the future of the Neighbourhood Plan - should we suspend it until the Local Plan is ratified? Mr Coltham thought that we should keep our NP views to the forefront, as it could be difficult to start up again "cold" in six months' time. Mrs Brickill said that there should be an overall summing-up of our NP - the 2004 Village Plan should be consulted to see how much of it applied now.

Mrs Hubbard pointed out that all our work up-to-date is always there in the Minutes and other documents, and we should suspend the Group until the Local Plan is ratified. The Chairman agreed. Mr Larcombe also agreed, and added that if we continue he will step down, but will always be willing to help as a volunteer. In the meantime, a Questionnaire could be formulated based on the previous 2004 one, with particular attention to the need for affordable housing, sent out, and the results analysed. Mr Hayward agreed with Mrs Hubbard's suggestion, and that the Questionnaire and Survey should be proceeded with.

From the floor, Cllr Moulding said that we should have a Housing Needs Survey, funded from our NP money. Mr Hayward will find out from Mrs Barnard if our NP grant is time-limited. Cllr Moulding added that the Local Plan assumes that villages don't want to stagnate, so across the board there should be growth of 5%; but the Inspector considers that this should be parish by parish. Thus the only way to allow small numbers of houses is to have a Neighbourhood Plan. In our case this would be in conjunction with Blackdown Hills policy.

The Chairman said that Mr Forbes and Mrs Betterton have both said that they want to suspend the Group until the Local Plan is ready.

The Meeting closed at 12 p.m.

**Signed.....Date.....**