

Neighbourhood Plan Vision & Questionnaire Workshop

12th October 2016

Attendance & Background

There were 30 participants including the discussion group facilitators (Allan Mortimer, Liam Percy, Derek Simpson, Jonathan Cooper, Rosie Danjoux and Carol Banks). All participants including the facilitators are parish residents.

The workshop was publicised by a leaflet distributed door-to-door throughout the Parish, through the minutes of steering group meetings, and by email to the Neighbourhood Plan distribution list.

The pre-meeting publicity set out the purpose of the workshop as being to “define key aspects of the questionnaire which we are aiming to distribute during November”.

Workshop Introduction

Allan Mortimer opened the meeting by setting out the purpose of the workshop, and explained the process for the workshop using the attached presentation. The goals were set as:

- ***To develop a preferred vision statement as a workshop output.***

It was stated that the preferred vision defined by the workshop will be the one offered to the parish for approval through the questionnaire.

- ***To develop questions and options within each of the themes / sub themes.***

It was explained that post-workshop editorial work will add context, finalise the formatting, and deal with mechanistic aspects of the questionnaire (such as how to return them).

The organisation of the boards followed the thematic structure which had been communicated in the pre-meeting publicity, and which has been developed from assessment of the issues consultation work.

The boards were initially populated with just the theme titles and sub-theme headings, except for the vision statement board which had an initial draft to create a starting point for discussion.

The boards and facilitators were organised as follows:

- Vision & Community: Allan & Rosie
- Housing & Sites: Liam & Carol
- Traffic & Environment: Derek & Jonathan

The participants were split into 3 groups which spent 30 minutes at each discussion board. All participants except the facilitators visited every board. Each group built on the work of the previous group at the board so that there would be a single output rather than creating three sets which would then need to be rationalised/reconciled.

Themes Work

The workshop output on the themes has been retained in its original form, and captured in photographs (see Appendix 1). The conversion of this material into the final questionnaire will be led by the steering group and board facilitators.

Vision Statement Development

As stated in the meeting introduction, the “Preferred Vision” is a workshop output which will be used directly in the questionnaire. Both for this reason, and because of the importance of the Vision Statement within the Neighbourhood Plan process, the minutes include an account of how the Preferred Vision Evolved. Again the original materials have been retained.

The opening draft was as follows:

“In 2035 the Parish will retain its essential nature of a rural community with a thriving sustainable village at its heart.”

Workshop participants were asked to suggest objectives they would individually like to see achieved through the Neighbourhood Plan. The draft vision statement was tested against these objectives, and amended as needed.

Note that the intention was not to agree on the objectives themselves, but to ensure that the vision statement was robust and capable of supporting the range of objectives that members of the community see as important.

The first workshop group concentrated mainly on generating objectives, the second added more objectives and started redrafting the vision statement. The third group mainly focused on testing the vision statement against the objectives set by the earlier groups and redrafting.

The following objectives were proposed during the workshop:

- **Deliver housing matched to local needs**
- **Encourage young people to stay / be able to stay in the village**
- **Encourage / retain retail outlets**
- **Enhance retail offer of local essential services**
- (Sustain) **sense of community**
- (Be a) **desirable place to live**
- (Retain) **character of the village**
- (Preserve) **identity of place** (setting of historic buildings and vistas)
- (Encourage) **Organic growth**
- **No large development(s)**
- (Permanently) **occupied properties not holiday / second homes**
- **Encourage small scale employment**

Note words inside brackets () have been added to the minutes for clarity/readability. Original text from the board is as shown in **bold**.

Midway through the workshop, the initial draft of the vision statement had evolved into:

“By 2035 the Parish will develop but retain its unique identity as a strong rural community with a thriving sustainable village at its heart.”

By the time the third group had finished their discussion, the vision statement had become:

“The Parish will develop but retain its unique identity and be a strong sustainable rural community with a thriving village at its heart. The village will remain distinct in character from nearby market towns and suburbs.”

This version was transcribed into Powerpoint and presented on screen to all participants at the end of the workshop. It was agreed by unanimous consensus to adopt this statement as the preferred vision for our Neighbourhood Plan and it will be offered to the parish for approval.

Post Workshop Note / Compatibility With Local Plan Vision

The vision statement proposed in Hambleton District Council’s preferred options document is:

“Hambleton will be a vibrant rural District, with a strong local economy making the best of the tourist potential offered through its unique location nestled between two National Parks and the historic City of York. Hambleton's high quality environment including both natural and historic assets will continue to provide the foundation for the health and well being of its communities and the five market towns will provide a strong retail offer, a good range of well paid jobs and good access to leisure facilities. Protection and enhancement of the District's landscapes, towns and villages continue to attract people to live in the area.”

