

Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan

Report to parish councils and Annual Parish Meetings

12 April 2017

The neighbourhood plan steering group held an “inception meeting” with Cambridgeshire ACRE (association for communities in rural England) in Stapleford on 4th April.

Mark Deas and Rachel Hogger (planning consultant) of CACRE will now submit their assessment of evidence needs and progress to date. The steering group will decide at its next meeting whether to commission their assistance in drawing up an application to Locality for funds (administered on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government [DCLG]) and advising the group.

The neighbourhood plan will need to be based on evidence, fit with the national planning policy framework and the local plan, and to meet the sustainable development tests. Mark Deas stressed that the planning proposals to be included in the neighbourhood plan, if approved by South Cambs District Council examination and at a subsequent local referendum, will be used as part of the emerging local plan to judge future development proposals.

Cambs ACRE commended the newly established website of the neighbourhood plan at www.staplefordandgreatshelford-np.uk. This sets out the overall objectives of the neighbourhood plan and reports on progress to date by the four spotlight groups.

The group on “travel and transport” met in late March and a short report is available on the website. The other groups are making progress on drawing up initial proposals on:

Village amenities

Greenspace and access to the countryside, and

Housing – to include an updated village design statement (to be extended to Stapleford).

A fifth and area-based spotlight group, focussing on the future development of Great Shelford village centre, will be considered at the next meeting of the steering group in early May.

The steering group will consider the spotlight group proposals in April, and also engage with residents and local interest groups, building on previous consultations and asking what people like about the two villages and what they would like to change and improve. The aim is to produce an integrated plan based on a long term view of village needs.