

The steering group for the CM Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) met for the 4th time in The Rising Sun on Thurs 15th May 2014.

Those present:

Kevin Watson

Alison Cross

Mike Lawrence

Jo Lawrence

Neil Encscott

Iain Le Duc

Ian Bell

Andrew Moss

Louise Tilsed, Senior Planning Officer, Wiltshire Council

Absent:

Anthony Hughes

Kevin welcomed Louise Tilsted, a Senior Planning Officer from Wiltshire Council. She has been allocated as our Link officer to help us through the application process for the CM Neighbourhood plan.

The members of the committee introduced themselves to Louise.

Louise informed the group that Christian Malford was considered a large village and, in the context of 600 houses planned for the Chippenham area, the Wiltshire Council plan assumes that 34 houses should be constructed between 2006 and 2026 in Christian Malford Parish. It is believed that between 17 and 19 have already been constructed since 2006, leaving a further 19 to 17 to be constructed up to 2026. Louise stated that if the Village Development Plan acknowledged this aspiration, it was much more likely that it would be adopted by Wiltshire Council.

The Chair pointed out that the Parish Council had already been approached by Developers indicating their desire to construct up to 90 houses within the Parish, and Louise confirmed that an interest in up to 119 houses had been registered at Wiltshire Council. Similarly other aspirations of the Wiltshire Plan should be acknowledged within the Village Plan, and explicit strategies towards each of these aspirations should be articulated.

It was agreed that the existence of a potential Village Development Plan should be advertised at the Village Fête in July, possibly by sharing the Village Hall stand. Louise explained that the interest in developing a Village Development Plan should be registered with Wiltshire Council, and Kevin agreed that he would initiate this registration.

It was agreed that the entire Parish should be registered rather than just the immediate vicinity of the village.

Kevin shared a survey that had been prepared by another village, and it was agreed that this should be used as a model for the creation of our own survey. Kevin offered to re-design the survey to suit the circumstances of Christian Malford and to circulate it to the Committee members for comment. This would then be distributed around the entire Parish for completion.

There was some discussion about the benefits of small local businesses being included in the Plan, and this was agreed to be appropriate as long as it did not involve significant heavy goods vehicle movements. Similarly the benefit of small businesses and additional housing by local farmers was supported.

Ian Bell shared his strategy for surveying the existing housing stock of the Parish, and this was enthusiastically accepted by the committee. Mike agreed to acquire the missing OS maps of the area and give them to Ian so that he and others could complete their survey. Ian has initially divided the housing stock between pre- and post- 1920, and it was agreed that this was an acceptable first estimate.

The possibility of financial support for the development of the Plan was discussed, and Louise confirmed that the Council had no funds available but that she would give the details of available National funding support to Kevin. Mike gave Kevin the web address of the grant awarding organisation.

The next meeting is planned for 18th June 2014 - The Rising Sun, 19.45