

Neighbourhood Plan Policy Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday 24th June 2025 at 8pm

Methodist Chapel, Naseby

Present: James Fanshawe, Joanne Clement, Andy Tresias, Barry Roberts, Paul Reedman, Gary Kirk (YourLocale), Mark Clement (chair), Paul Kelly, Matt Ellis, Sue Turner, Claire Booth

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies from: Mark Smith

2. Declarations of interests

The map of site suitability for housing development from the assessment by AECOM was circulated. The following declarations of interest were stated:

- Paul Reedman NA03
- Mark Clement NA07
- Paul Kelly NA07
- Joanne Clement NA07
- Andy Tresias NA04B
- Barry Roberts NA09

3. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes were agreed

Matters arising

Renewal energy - Paul R / Claire have proposed draft policy and sites we could allocate for Wind Turbines / Solar Panels and these were added to the draft plan circulated in March. Paul explained that there is limited potential because of the current power line capacity to the village. The main proposal is to possibly extend the Kelmarsh wind farm with two more turbines on Naseby Parish land. Also to support localised small scale solar panels / wind turbines linked to properties

4. NHP future funding

Locality the government agency supporting Neighbourhood Plans has announced that all its funding has ceased immediately. Grant funding for YourLocale and technical support eg for AECOM is no longer available. Fortunately, we have had the funding for AECOM's work. However, moving forward there is now no funding.

If we need a **Strategic Environmental Assessment** (SEA) which could cost £10,000 there will be no funding for this and the parish would have to pay. Historic England could also ask for an SEA. If an SEA is needed it could delay the plan for 6-9 months. A screening report to see if there will be harm / benefit from the plan by WNC could cost £1500. (Note North Northants Council were able to successfully challenge Historic England for the need for an SEA for one of their villages)

Gary's estimate is that we will need £2000 to £3000 to finish the plan (not including a potential SEA). This will be for funding for an examiner, the referendum, open event, response to comments, amendments and submission to West Northants Council (WNC). We do not know if any funding / support would be available from WNC for some of this or if the cost could be recovered from a housing developer in the future.

Gary stated that before Locality were involved 'Awards for All' supported Neighbourhood Plans and there is a possibility it may become involved again. If funding for an SEA is needed, we may need to put in a bid to the Kelmarsh Wind Farm fund.

Action - Paul R to take the funding issue to the Parish Council to see if they would be willing to fund the £2000 - £3000 cost to finish the plan (not an SEA). The Parish Council have now agreed to do this

5. Update break in action

AECOM have now completed the assessment of the proposed sites for housing development from landowners. We are now able to consider these.

6. West Northants Local Plan

A meeting was held with local councils by Alan Munn (WNC Policy Team Manager). Under the previous government the local plan required an additional 40,000 houses in West Northants by 2042. Under the new government this has increased to a demand for 50,000 houses by 2042/3. This has led to a delay in the local plan programme, including a consultation period, until September 2027.

Currently there are 3 plans that should last until 2029 or until superseded by the WNC plan ie

- Daventry
- South Northants
- Northampton Borough

These are still valid and set a village hierarchy for development ie big villages e.g. Brixworth, small villages e.g. Naseby, towns e.g. Daventry and hamlets e.g. Haselbech.

Gary's suggested we should identify sites for between [REDACTED] houses so perhaps for [REDACTED] and then a reserve for an [REDACTED] in case they are needed when WNC finalises their plan.

If the local area has does **not have** a 5 year land supply for housing it is easier for developers to get planning permission for development. At the moment WNC have just a 5 year supply. If we can finish our Neighbourhood Plan that will give priority for us to appeal any development that we do not feel is appropriate. It was agreed that we should try to get our plan done as soon as possible to give us the best possible protection from what we may view to be inappropriate development.

Gary suggested we aim to identify [REDACTED] houses would be possible. Going forward this target for houses can include 'windfall' numbers i.e. additional houses built inside the existing village envelope e.g. where a plot next to an existing house or replacing a house is developed for housing.

7 / 9 Close/ re-open meeting for AECOM site assessment report

No members of the public attended the meeting and so it was not necessary to close and then reopen the meeting for the public.

8. AECOM Site Assessment Report

The report has assessed 10 sites. The sites were discussed including feedback from AECOM. A colour coding was used on the map of the sites which was circulated for the meeting.

Green – suitable site

[Redacted text block]

REDACTED

Amber – potentially suitable sites

[Redacted text block]

REDACTED

Order of preference for sites

1. [Redacted text block]

REDACTED

10. Next steps

1. Raise issue of the need for funding (£2000-£3000) to enable us to complete the plan with Parish Council. **Paul R. This now been agreed**

2. [Redacted]

REDACTED

3. Send the proposals for site(s) to WNC to see if they have any objections. **Parish Council / Paul R and Mark Clement.**

4. We can then organise an open event once we have had feedback from WNC and possible SEA - **all**

5. Look at the updated draft of the plan sent out by Gary on 11th March which includes the renewables policy and other small amendments - **all before next meeting.**

11. Date of next meeting

To be agreed once we have had feedback from landowner and WNC and so have a clearer idea of what we need to do next.

12. AOB

Bus Shelter – the need for a bus shelter for the village was discussed. Paul R stated that the Parish Council had got funding for a shelter on Church Street in the past but residents had not wanted it. The general feeling of the committee was that this is not a priority given the limited bus service in the village.

Signed: Date: 2025

Mark Clement – (Committee Chair) / Barry Roberts – (Committee Vice Chair)