

Minutes of 25th Meeting of Renhold Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Monday 4th March at 7:30pm.

N.B. – To save space, Actions to be taken are highlighted in Turquoise

Present:- Amanda Quince (Chair), Claudia Dietz, Nicky Gribble, Keith Herkes, Peter Norris, Tony Ploszajski, Kirstin Rayner, Julie Roberts and Paul Sawford

Welcome & Apologies AQ welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanking Tony & Kirstin for their work to ensure that the progress of the Plan does not lose momentum

Apologies received from Ian Mclver, Denis Ivins, Sarah Mitchell-Wood

Declarations of relevant interests No interests were declared

Next Steps Policy Review to harmonise Policies with Visions & Objectives for discussion with AECOM when completed - working from Renhold Design Codes, Draft Document Structure produced by AECOM and the Neighbourhood Plan Vision produced by Tony

The drive-around the Parish with Dan Mather and Nick Beedie from AECOM on Friday February 23rd proved to be very productive. The Draft Document Structure was produced by them following that meeting. However, it being only headings it was decided to look at the Ravensden NP which includes Purpose, Vision, Outcomes, Process and Area of Study to ensure that nothing which should be included is omitted. There is also a Policy Review in that document. KR advised that the Renhold Plan is not yet advanced enough for this to be included. Dan might have had some involvement with the Ravensden Plan and it was felt to be worthwhile to keep referring AECOM to this Plan. Our discussions included:

KR led a review of the Vision, looking at it in a different way to try to view it impartially, looking at the 10 Objectives, where they sit in the Policy and that they are being achieved. Policies to sit under one of the Objectives, making it easier for the Inspector, and residents, to understand

Policy RNP1: Small-scale Housing Development

Policy RNP2: Renhold Design Code

Policy RNP3: Dark Skies

Policy RNP4: Green Infrastructure

Policy RNP5: Local Green Spaces

Policy RNP6: Important Green Gaps

Policy RNP7: Heritage Assets

Policy RNP8: Protection and Retention of Community Facilities

Policy RNP9: Mitigating Transport Issues

Countryside

Objective 1: 'To maintain the rural character and historic environment of the Parish'

RNP2,3,4,6,7 & 9

Objective 2: ‘To preserve a separation between the Bedford urban area and the parts of Renhold that are closest to it, to avoid physical and visual coalescence’
RNP2, 6 & 7

Objective 3: ‘To protect and enhance existing views into, out from and across the Parish’
RNP2,4 & 6’

Objective 4: ‘To protect the character of the Parish with well-integrated, small-scale housing development of up to ten dwellings in total to meet local needs, enhanced opportunity for biodiversity and net zero carbon whilst maintaining the gap between urban Bedford and the gaps between the Ends’
RNP1,2,4,6 & 7

Objective 5: ‘To safeguard and enhance the long-term future of existing community facilities for all ages’
RNP5 & 8

Objective 6: ‘To promote the provision of new facilities to address the current and future needs of the village’
RNP2,5 & 8

Objective 7: ‘To encourage and support the provision of high-capacity digital infrastructure to give residents consistent access to high-speed broadband’

(Objective 7 cannot be achieved in a Policy. It was suggested to potentially merge Objectives 6 & 7)

Objective 8: ‘To conserve and enhance countryside, biodiversity and wildlife habitats including Local Green Space designation and green space improvements’
RNP2,3,4,5 & 6

Objective 9: ‘To upgrade and extend public footpaths and bridleways to provide a multi-functional Green Infrastructure network which encourages non-vehicular travel’
RNP4,5 & 9

Objective 10: ‘To deter through traffic and develop new, alternative traffic calming measures to encourage safe and sustainable movement within the Parish and to mitigate the potential impact of major proposed infrastructure projects like East-West Rail and the ‘Science Campus’
RNP4 & 9

AQ to amend Design Codes, Renhold Draft Document Structure as produced by AECOM by adding:-

Context

2. Landscape character – add wording “& Green Infrastructure”
3. Built character – add “ Heritage” and ‘street forms’
4. Add item “Active travel, i.e. non-motorised”

5. Add item "Movement networks"
6. Add item "Landmarks"
7. Add item "Patterns of vehicle movement, pinch points etc"

Identity

4. Add item "Key views"
2. Add "Fenestration & facades" to 'Materials & details'
5. Add item ' dark skies'

Built Form

1. Building scale & massing - add 'roofscape'
3. Add wording "blocks & layouts"
4. Add item "Street type & features" This item might be grouped under "Ends"

Nature

Nothing to be added

Homes & Buildings

Transport to be considered on a separate occasion

TP to group/remove repetitions/merge & simplify the draft objectives, prioritising the main goals and looking at how these can still achieve the vision, whilst also making the document easier to understand – less is more sometimes

However, KR requested **everyone** individually to carefully consider the 3 Visions – Countryside, Community, Connectivity – with their respective objectives, putting things together so that Objectives are simplified and not being repeated

NG was informed that the Revision date of 2030 is not fixed and can be adjusted to suit the date that the Plan is confirmed. Reviews are encouraged every 5 years, and the timing of the Local Plan is quite critical

AQ to circulate Policy Training ahead of next meeting

AQ to send Draft Document Structure with the amendments back to Dan & Nick at AECOM.

When this process is completed a critical friend check to be done by a selected few residents who have not been involved in the writing (it may be necessary to split it into sections rather than make the task too onerous). Steve Arnold of Ravensden PC also to be asked to give his views on the document

KH enquired whether another Housing Needs Survey should be carried out at this stage, and it was agreed not to do this at the moment

A.O.B

NG confirmed that the Clerk to Renhold PC has set aside the sum of £3k in the budget for the NP, this being the sum considered to be sufficient to cover Regulation 14 & Design Code Draft Document

Regularly updating Parishioners on the progress of the NP was felt to be a good idea. KH to speak with the editor of The Renhold Magazine to ask for a regular slot. The title of the magazine to be updated in all relevant documents TP

Meeting closed at 8:50pm with AQ thanking everyone for their hard work and for their continued commitment

Date of next meeting Monday 18th March at 7.30pm at The Chapel, Renhold (AQ to check availability of the venue and confirm to the group)