

**SECOND MEETING OF THE MIRFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP AT THE OLD
COLONIAL DUNBOTTLE LANE MIRFIELD
ON THURSDAY 7TH APRIL 2016 @ 19:30 HOURS**

PRESENT

Martyn Bolt (Facilitator), Angela & Andy Gibson, Liz Higgins, Peter King, Nigel Ruscoe, Christine Sykes (Note taker), Philip Tolson, Cheryl & Philip Tyler.

INTRODUCTION

Cllr Martyn Bolt gave those who weren't present at the previous meeting an overview of where we were at present. Christine Sykes distributed the meeting notes.

MIRFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Bolt said that we knew what to do following the read up of the documents he had forwarded; and we knew where we needed to cover because the designated area was clearly marked by the Mirfield Town Council's boundary. However it would be up to us to decide on what it would contain. He has obtained a copy of The Locality Guide. Liz Higgins questioned its influence in the face of the Draft Kirklees Local Plan. Cheryl Tyler explained that it wouldn't be known if the LP would be altered as a result of the comments submitted come October. Meanwhile we can only refer to the draft. Andy Gibson surmised that the Neighbourhood Plan was very much for future reference. Christine Sykes suggested that the two plans would run parallel to each other; and the Neighbourhood Plan would be personalised for Mirfield's needs. Angela Gibson said that many of the current traffic problems were caused by people coming from outside our area to use our facilities. The Mirfield Design Statement whilst out of date in many ways could form the basis of the new plan and may not take as much time to publish as that did. There were current issues which weren't prevalent at that time; flooding being a major one.

POST-IT NOTE ANALYSIS

Christine Sykes distributed the analysis of the comments left on the brain-storm board at the meeting about the Kirklees Draft Plan. It was noted that there were 117 comments from over 400 attendees; but it had been very busy at the contact point, so people could have overlooked the opportunity to comment. Traffic, roads and infrastructure comprised the majority of the concerns. It was agreed that the analysis would help build up the evidence base.

VISION STATEMENT

Cllr Bolt said a Vision/Mission statement would be needed. Christine Sykes wondered if the one used in the Mirfield Design Statement would suffice. This said the following:

'A document which describes the town as it is today and highlights the qualities valued by its residents. It incorporates local knowledge, views and ideas, which may then contribute to the growth and prosperity of the town. The aim is to ensure that further developments are based on a considered understanding of past and present and thereby contributing to a positive future. It was agreed that this could be adapted to fit the requirements of a current statement'.

Cheryl Tyler offered to scan the Mirfield Design Statement for distribution to members for reference purposes.

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

As it was clear that this is a major issue for Mirfield residents it was suggested that Kirklees be asked for stats. on this aspect. This data could be used as a starting point for the chapter on Transport. Cheryl Tyler proposed that pollution issues should also be investigated as they arose from the traffic hotspots. Challenges for the community would be the proposed Ravensthorpe Relief Road and the Cooper Bridge Gyratory. Police and Highway statistics on road traffic accidents would also add to the evidence. Christine Sykes suggested inviting experts to our meetings as required. They could tell us what we need

to know and nullify the need for us to do our own research. We could then use knowledge gained to provide factually based recommendations.

PLANNING ISSUES

Ideally a member of the Planning Department should be invited to attend meetings to discuss all aspects of progress on the Plan. Cllr Bolt agreed to distribute the spreadsheet showing alternative sites as laid out in the Kirklees Draft Plan. Cheryl Tyler asked if members would be able to have sight of the transcript of the meeting held by Mirfield Town Council @ Salvation Army on 12/10/15.

Action Points

1. *Christine Sykes to distribute meeting notes.*
2. *Cllr Bolt to send powerpoint transcript of meeting held 12/10/15.*
3. *Cheryl Tyler to scan the Mirfield Design Statement and send to all members.*
4. *Cllr Bolt to invite a Planning Officer to our meeting for an opinion as to the attitude of Neighbourhood Plans by Kirklees Council.*
5. *Cllr Bolt to invite a Kirklees Highways Consultant to supply stats and to attend a meeting.*
6. *All to work on the wording of the Vision Statement for the next meeting.*
7. *Cheryl Tyler to investigate the possibility of having the next meeting @ The Plough and notify Cllr Bolt accordingly.*

7. Next Meeting: Thursday 12th May at 7:30pm @ The Plough (subject to confirmation)