

**SIXTH MEETING OF THE MIRFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP AT THE OLD  
COLONIAL DUNBOTTLE LANE MIRFIELD MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2016 @ 19:30  
HOURS**

**PRESENT**

Martyn Bolt (Facilitator), Peter King, Christine Sykes (Note Taker) and Cheryl Tyler.

**APOLOGIES**

Phil Tyler

**ROLE OF PLANNING AUTHORITY**

Martyn Bolt said that the Council had yet to decide on the area to be covered by the Plan. Christine Sykes suggested that it was imperative that Planners were part of our meetings. Cheryl Tyler has obtained some briefing notes via the Local Government Association. She said that under Schedule 4B of the 1990 Act local planning authorities have a statutory duty to give such advice or assistance to PCs and designated Neighbourhood Forums as in all the circumstances, they consider appropriate for the purpose of, or in connection with, facilitating the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans.

**KIRKLEES LOCAL PLAN**

Cheryl Tyler said that now that everyone was deeply involved in the consultation process, this should be a priority. Local Plans usually preceded Neighbourhood Plans; but if there is no Local Plan our Plan couldn't be tied in. Some Neighbourhood Plans have been overridden on appeal; so their purpose has been undermined somewhat.

**OTHER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS**

As discussed at a previous meeting, it was agreed that other completed Plans could be used as a template. Christine Sykes suggested however, that Kirklees could possibly have different viewpoints to other Councils. All the more reason to get the Planners on board ASAP.

**MIRFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

Cheryl Tyler expressed concern that the Neighbourhood and Local Plans had not been on the Agenda recently and wondered what they were proposing regarding comments on the LP. To that end she has asked for it to be put on the Agenda for their next meeting. Martyn Bolt said that this would be on 13/12/16, and would be a special meeting; so the Agenda would be limited. Initially the MTC asked each meeting about progress and he had told them that he would report when there was something to tell them.

**STRATEGY FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

**Public Interest**

As the turn-out to meetings has been disappointing, Cheryl Tyler suggested another Public Meeting in the New Year to rally support. She also suggested a leaflet drop as she had a source of reasonably priced printing. Christine Sykes said that many people signed up to an interest at the original Public Meeting with minimal constructive response. In addition, publicity via Social media and posters around Mirfield had not helped.

**Expert involvement**

Christine Sykes said that expert involvement was required in order that the Plan would be factual. Flooding was an issue that had become important to Mirfield during the last few years. Martyn Bolt said that The Environmental Agency were basing problems on the number of houses flooded, which is low in Mirfield. Everyone said that Infrastructure was affected, and would be even more so with more development, particularly in the Sands Lane area. All agreed that a representative of the Environmental Agency should be invited once KMC approve the Boundary.

Cheryl Tyler, who is a Trustee of CoVoP, said that another member with Neighbourhood Planning experience had offered to come to speak to us; and suggested that it would be interesting to find out if any other Neighbourhood in Kirklees is working on a Plan.

Action Points:

*Martyn Bolt to contact Matthias Franklin, the new Head of Planning, to arrange a meeting with one or two of his staff, during their working hours.*

*Martyn Bolt to find out if other neighbourhoods in Kirklees are working on a Plan.*

*Cheryl Tyler to liaise with a CoVoP speaker*

*Christine Sykes to investigate continued interest in membership of the Neighbourhood Plan Group.*

**Next Meeting:** To be held after Christmas @ the Planning Department on a date to be agreed.