

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

11th August 2020

AGENDA ITEM 5.1 PREPARATION OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

1 Background

- 1.1 Members will recall that at your meeting of 2nd June 2020, having considered three fee proposals, you requested an on-line meeting with Cheshire Community Action to seek to establish that body's suitability to assist the Council in progressing its Neighbourhood Plan. This meeting was held on 29th July, with the majority of councillors present. As well as potentially satisfying the likely needs of the Council, that consultant's financial fee rate was significantly less than the other two consultancies who submitted fee proposals.
- 1.2 Members are reminded that CCA is a non-profit making body and a registered charity, of which the Parish Council is a member. The organisation employs a chartered town planner who works full-time on assisting communities prepare their NP.

2 Report

- 2.1 On the basis of the information provided and the discussions that have taken place, your Clerk considers that CCA would provide a satisfactory level and type of assistance to the Council in pursuing a Neighbourhood Plan, but clearly it is for members to offer their own views on this.
- 2.2 On the basis of the Clerk's own view, but subject to the views of members, the recommendations below are appropriate if Council wishes now to proceed with preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.3 Members are reminded that Government grant of £10,000 is available to help councils preparing Neighbourhood Plans.
- 2.4 A parallel report on the Private agenda reflects the recommendations below and establishes the fee arrangement proposed in respect of the appointment of CCA.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That Cheshire East Council be informed that it is your Council's intention to proceed with preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the whole parish and that authority be given to submit relevant formal notification to that Council.
- 3.2 That appropriate arrangements be made, including liaison as necessary with the planning consultant to be appointed to assist the council, to commence and continue the Plan process.
- 3.3 That at appropriate stages application be made to Government for grant to help finance the Neighbourhood Plan process both for the rest of the financial year to 31 March 2021, and beyond to the completion of the Plan.

Jack Steel
Clerk to Parish Council