

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

2nd March 2021

AGENDA ITEM 9.3 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

1. Background

1.1 On 11 August 2020 Council resolved:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- That Cheshire Community Action be appointed to assist the Council to pursue preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan, on the basis of CCA's quoted fee day rate plus related expenses, within an overall envelope of £5000, on the basis that Ms Lucy Hughes of CCA be appointed as our consultant.

1.2 Members will also recall that at your meeting of 1st December 2020 you resolved to make provision of £3000 from the Community Infrastructure Levy moneys received in 2020 for extra consultant input in relation to the proposed Neighbourhood Plan, over and above grant-aided expenditure.

2. Report

2.1 Given that item 9.2 on this agenda has taken much of the Clerk's time having been prioritised by the Council, it is now timely to review Council's original Neighbourhood Plan proposal and suggest how the project might now be moved forward.

2.2 In this context, Councillor Bold has put forward the following proposition to Council:

That the Council be minded to report on the progress and status of the neighbourhood plan to date given the excellent start achieved so far by the Clerk in these challenging times. This item was approved at the August 2020 meeting and mentioned in Matters Arising at the September 2020 meeting but has since fallen off the agenda and has not been mentioned subsequently. Also that the Council be minded to agree the next steps whereby members may be involved in the process of bringing forward the Neighbourhood Plan to its fruition with the involvement of all Pickmere residents.

2.3 In the light of the Clerk's workload, but also of Council's wish to proceed with the Neighbourhood Plan, it is suggested that one way forward would be for one or possibly two councillors to be identified who would become responsible for progressing the necessary work, and would liaise with the appointed consultant, with a view to setting out a work programme and action list. The allocation of £3000 from CIL moneys referred to above was made so as to facilitate the use of the consultant beyond what was originally envisaged, such that she is able to take a day-to-day co-ordinating/implementation role as well as advising on the process as a whole. The one or two councillors referred to could then possibly call on a wider working group of remaining councillors to assist with implementing the process, bringing necessary issues to Council for formal decision, including for instance the ways by which the whole parish community can be involved in the plan process.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That members consider the proposition above and how the matter should proceed.

J Steel

Clerk to the Parish Council