

# Longden Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Meeting 22 – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 Red Lion Pub, Longden Common,  
7:30pm

## Notes

### 1. Attendance

- a. **Present:** P Arnold, (Chair), P Carter, L Brayne, N Ingham, A Brayne, C Higgins, H Kent, J Ingham, P McDonald
- b. **Apologies:** R Evans, K Lovegrove, Jonathan Lovegrove, W Sheffield

### 2. Notes of meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – noted with no comments

### 3. Liaison with Shropshire Council –

- a. Notes of meeting held Wednesday 19th January 2025 – P Arnold summarised the discussion.
- b. Date of next liaison meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 1:30pm (link circulated by email)

### 4. Housing Needs Assessment – C Higgins reported that AECOM had amended the report slightly to indicate that the settlement allocation for Longden village reflected their housing need assessment for the parish.

### 5. Consultation drop-in event – P Arnold thanked all those who helped at the drop-in event which had attracted around 60 visitors. Some surveys had been completed, and others took them away to complete later. It was agreed that an online version of the survey will be posted on the parish council website and advertised via social media to collect additional responses and a closing date of 31 March set.

- a. **Analysis and feedback** – There had been some confusion due to the use of outdated maps, which showed sites identified during the previous Shropshire Council call for sites but volunteers had been able to support visitors and explain that they were illustrative only as no sites had been allocated by the Neighbourhood Plan.
- b. **Criteria** – There seemed to be good support for the criteria with particular emphasis being placed on the risk of flooding on some sites. The comments recorded on survey sheets will be collated onto the online survey to make analysis easier.
- c. **Shropshire Council Local Plan** - Shropshire Council had provided an update explaining the latest position on the emerging Local Plan and the need for compliance with both the adopted and any emerging Local Plan. This was made available at the event.
- d. **Sites of Interest** – A landowner identified a potential site to the south of the village that had not previously been assessed, which he considered suitable for housing. It was agreed to seek more information and assess it against the criteria.
- e. An agent from Berry's attended and indicated he was representing two landowners who had sites they considered suitable for housing but thought restricting development to 2-3 houses on any one site would be unviable. He suggested a site of 30 houses was the minimum needed to support the necessary infrastructure but expressed a preference to work with the parish council rather than against them. LB expressed concern that a development of that size could impact negatively on social cohesion in the village.

- f. JI & NI declared an interest as they have a business relationship but identified a smaller developer who might be willing to build smaller developments.
6. **Local Green Space** – Concern was expressed that site LGN009 included land that was owned by the community and managed by the Village Hall Committee. Some of the land was rented to a local farmer. It was noted that the Village Hall Committee is trying to clarify ownership and to register the playing field as a Local Green Space. It was **agreed** to write to the Village Hall Committee and explain the implications of LGS designation before including it in the Neighbourhood Plan.
7. **Engagement with Businesses** – This was deferred as K Lovegrove was not present.
8. **Locality Grant Reporting** – CH reported that all grant funding needed to be spent before the end of March, or it must be returned to Locality and applied for again. An invoice for planning consultancy had been requested and it was **agreed** to approve payment of the invoice upon receipt. The consultant had also been asked to provide a quote for further support during the next financial year, much of which would have to be paid for by the Parish Council. CH requested any invoices or expenses incurred be submitted by the end of March or they would not be included in the report.
9. **Date of next meeting** – 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025, Red Lion PH, Longden Common, 7:30pm