

Note of 2nd meeting of Cusop Planning Project Group held at Brooklands, 6th December 2012

Present: David Jones (DJ) (chairman), Ian Jardin (IJ), Jane Weaver (JW).

Also present: Samantha Banks (SB) (Herefordshire Council).

1. Apologies for absence from John Bramble and Jim Wesley.

2. Discussion with Herefordshire Council Support Officer

SB handed over a copy of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) for signature by the Parish Council Chairman. SB confirmed that £2,000 would be available from the DCLG Frontrunners scheme for Cusop. There was not a fixed time limit for using it, but the parish would be expected to follow the project timetable agreed via the SLA.

Another DCLG grant scheme would be available in 2013-14 and Cusop might be eligible. The Awards For All lottery scheme was another potential source of funds (Herefordshire Council contact - Dave Tristram). A Plan for a small parish like Cusop could be simple and not expensive. The submitted Plan could be electronic, saving some printing costs.

SB recommended that the Plan should adopt the same 2011-31 period as the Herefordshire Local Plan and that any new housing should be phased over that period.

SB confirmed that a Sustainability Appraisal would not be needed. A Habitats Regulation Assessment of any impact on the River Wye (a European 'special area of conservation') would be needed, but Herefordshire Council would help with this.

The Cusop Plan would have to be in broad conformity with the Herefordshire Local Plan which was due to be published in draft form in March/April 2013. SB advised that the Local Plan would contain a housing target of 5,300 for rural areas and this would be divided between seven local housing market areas and sub-divided between certain "sustainable villages" in those areas, minus an allowance for housing outside those villages. Each "sustainable village" would have a housing target expressed as percentage increase on its existing dwelling numbers. Cusop was earmarked as one of the "sustainable villages" in the Golden Valley housing market area.

The Local Plan housing target included "commitments" (new housing identified but not completed by 2011) which should also be broken down to village level, but Herefordshire Council had yet to confirm this. Cusop had a significant commitment site.

Sites for gypsies and travellers would be identified in the Herefordshire Local Plan and parishes would not need to identify these in their own plans.

3. The Note of the 1st Group meeting on 15th November 2012 was agreed.

4. Timetable / Project Plan. SB thought that the draft timetable was realistic and advised that referenda would not be permitted during the late March to early May 2015 run-up to council elections. The Group noted that the projected referendum date was December 2014 which was undesirable and should be brought forward if possible.

5. Budget. The Group considered that the £2,000 Frontrunner grant plus £2,000 earmarked by the Parish Council should be adequate, subject to doing a detailed breakdown for the project plan.

6. Next Steps

IJ to prepare a draft project plan with budget and updated timetable.

JW to prepare more detailed list of likely planning topics for Development Plan and non-planning topics for Parish Plan Update.

7. Next Meeting to be in early February 2013 at Brooklands. Exact date to be confirmed.