

Hanslope Parish Neighbourhood Plan Review

Notes from the Steering Group meeting on 18 September 2024 at 19:00
held at Rose Lane Farm

Members attending:

Eileen Price

Dorothy Courtman

John Watson

Matthew Jennings (ONH)

Jackie Cass (via Teams)

Notes:

Matt led discussions on three main agenda items

1. Feedback on comments from the review consultees
2. Consultation statement document
3. MK City Plan 2050

1. Matt has spoken with David Blandammer who formally agreed that the NP review would not need to go to a referendum following the examination of the plan. The Environment Agency feedback suggesting a new policy can be ignored as the points referred to are covered in the new local plan policy CEA5 point 8.2 Water Efficiency. The comments from the local landowner (JH) re: HAN10 The local gap were discussed and Matt considered that JH had misinterpreted what the NP can do and noted that his land has already been offered for development under MK's call for sites (CfS) and so MKCC will make an assessment on the viability of development.

Matt will update the Modification statement and the wording/grammar changes suggested by David Blandammer.

2. The Consultation Statement written by JC is OK just need to change the response to the Environment Agency policy suggestion.

The PC will need to read the updated plan and statements and if it agrees submit it to MKCC. Next PC meeting is 14 October so the completed plan review will need to be circulated to the councillors the week before (7 Oct.) Matt will send it all to Eileen on the 10 Oct to circulate to the SG members for approval. If the PC decide to make minor changes the SG should request delegated authority to make the changes and submit plan. Once the review has gone to MKCC it is no longer our responsibility.

It was suggested that the SG prepare a leaflet updating the stage the review has reached and copies of this could be available for residents on the Parish notice board, village hall, community hall, the school, the Doctor's etc.

3. Matt gave the link to MK's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Report as part of their Reg 18 consultation

(<https://placemaker.miltonkeynes.urbanintelligence.co.uk/p/document/20>).

Section 2.1 in the document has an interactive map showing all 527 sites that MK assessed,

including those in Hanslope.

Matt outlined Neil's comments on the MK City Plan 2050 in the context of the rural northern villages:

- The LP has no clear vision of how its rural areas – towns and villages – fit into what is a very city-centric plan to 2050
- It is implied that the infrastructure deficits of most rural areas are irreversible so planning for any housing growth would be 'unreasonable' as an alternative to the spatial option chosen (per the SA/SEA)
- There has therefore been no analysis of how planned, targeted rural growth could exploit opportunities to upgrade infrastructure (per NPPF §83)
- None of the four 'Reasonable Alternative Growth Strategies' tested by the SA/SEA include rural growth other than as a single large extension to Olney or as city extensions
- The spatial strategy has acknowledged the regeneration potential of a number of locations within the older parts of the pre-new town as well as the new town areas of the city but has not interrogated what that potential may realise in terms of delivering net new homes – our own knowledge of some of those areas would suggest that this potential would be counted in hundreds or even thousands to 2050 in ways that their communities may welcome
- The result is Policy GS1 which defines all rural settlements as 'Tier 2' and requires only 'local needs' are met, then GS2 provides only for windfall sites

Matt is concerned that the LP may give those that don't want to see rural development a false sense of security. Not only does excluding the rural areas from delivering any housing growth over the next 25 years seem completely unrealistic for a plan-led system to maintain, it is also irrational as a spatial option and provides no framework for NPs to envisage and plan for change.

We had a long discussion on the future plans for MK and the rural areas. The new local plan is expected to be in place by 2025/26

Next meetings:

Steering group TBA

Whole team TBA