

## Notes of Environment Group meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Present: Mick, John, Wesley, Nick, John, Jo, Liz

Apologies: Jeremy

Draft Chapter: everyone thanked John for his efforts as we agreed he had captured the feelings of the Environment Group for the character of the policies to appear in the plan.

We agreed:

- As the Phase 1 survey for the plan area was completed in the 1970s, its findings were unlikely to be relevant to this plan.
- Although the introductions were quite long, they set the scene for the area so would not be reduced at present.
- Nick agreed to complete the survey of the few remaining parcels of land which had not been covered.
- The group were in agreement with the thrust of the policies relating to Lutterworth East, but agreed that they should respond to developments right up until the plan is complete and are likely to need updating as close to submission date as possible.
- The Local Green Spaces were agreed as proposed.
- Sites of environmental significance were agreed with the addition of
  - any extra hedges where 5 or more species can be found within a 30m length (each person will re-evaluate their fields to suggest areas for inclusion)
  - any scrubby/wooded field corners or edges
  - any other site suggested by the field surveyor WITH JUSTIFICATION.
- Important open spaces the group suggested
  - replacing field 1106 with field 1105 (*check numbers please as I do not have the map!*)
  - omitting 1106.2 as no one could identify the ground referred to by HDC. EM will check with HDC what they mean.
  - We discussed including the small open space on Brook Street, but concluded that it was not really an important open space.
- Buildings and structures of local significance we agreed that we should start with those identified already by HDC. However, the following were also suggested:
  - 19<sup>th</sup> century Chapel on Swinford Road is possibly in a state of collapse and should perhaps been omitted. Mick will investigate further.
  - A collection of the older buildings at the northern end of Brook Street should be considered for inclusion. John and Jo will look at the buildings and talk to their owners before suggesting which properties should be added (photographs needed)
  - The 'bomb hole' should be added to the list. Liz will draft a description.

- Ridge and Furrow: several fields were suggested to be added to the map and list. (south of the A4304 adjacent to boundary with North Kilworth and north of the A4304 within the village of Walcote)
- As it would be interesting to have a more complete record of the history of enclosure in Misterton with Walcote, Liz will ask Keith Wilding if he has any further information to hand.
- Wildlife Corridors: the team suggested the addition of land stretching south of the A4304 along a belt of trees (part of which forms a priority habitat), joining with woodland the north of Swinford Road before linking into Swinford woods and heading towards the M1. This would link with the existing proposal and it was agreed that this was a logical extension.
- Important Views: these were agreed with the addition of the view into the parish from the M1 motorway towards St Leonard's church. This has been identified elsewhere in survey work prior to the submission of an application for development of Lutterworth East and its inclusion was felt to acknowledge the importance of this view at the entrance of the plan area.
- Building for biodiversity only needs the correction of one or two typos and minor errors
- Renewable energy: the group felt that the policies suggested were suitable, but that something should be added concerning commercial solar farms – supporting the concept, but suggesting they would be most appropriate in locations where they would be less visible.
- Photographs: John and Jo will provide photographs of the built resources identified in the plan. Liz and Nick will provide photographs of the non-built features.

#### Next steps:

The team will aim to have any extra information or resources with John by the end of the year.

Any extra sites/fields/buildings/structures/hedgerows for inclusion in the plan will be discussed and agreed by email before asking John to include them in the plan.

Date of next meeting: was provisionally agreed as MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2019 AT 13 CHAPEL LANE AT 7:30 PM **THERE WILL BE WINE!**