

Neighbourhood Planning: Appendix 12

Ref: KPC Meeting (Originally presented at 11 March 2020)

Neighbourhood Planning

At a recent ad hoc meeting of Kingston Parish Council (KPC) it was agreed that a short paper should be produced detailing the pros and cons of working with residents and the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) to produce a Neighbourhood Plan.

If it is agreed that this is something that should be considered, then the Parish Meeting (in April / May 2020) could act as a springboard to ascertain interest from residents.

Pros:

- A substantial amount of work has already been done producing the village's Action Plan. Any Neighbourhood Plan could also incorporate the village's Conservation Area Character Appraisal, which is to be updated.
- Gives us more control over future development in the village. Although we are not expecting large developments, there is likely to continue to be windfall development over the next few years.
- Opportunity to revitalise local democracy, and to demonstrate that there is a vehicle to ascertain residents' thinking, and how they can have influence.
- Opportunity to identify and plan for our needs (e.g smaller size housing, affordable housing, sustainability, travel and transport, footpaths and cycle paths, environment)
- Enables us to work more closely with SDNPA and influence their thinking and plans, especially around design statements and protection of the conservation area.
- Slight increase in the amount received from the Community Infrastructure Levy
- Many examples of good, clear Neighbourhood Plans are available for us to draw upon, rather than reinventing the wheel.

Cons:

- We may be too late to consider this since the SDNPA Plan has already been agreed. If Kingston is to produce a Neighbourhood Plan, thought should be given to a timescale – the SDNPA Plan is to be reviewed in 2023 so this could be a date to aim for.
- Although the Plan does not need to be lengthy (and would be more likely to be widely read if it wasn't) it does need to be clear and concise, and this will require resource – not only money but time spent by residents outwith KPC. If residents are not prepared to become involved this would be a big disadvantage.
- Administrative support would be needed.
- We would have to be prepared to manage conflict – not everyone will agree with a Plan.
- Can we add anything that isn't already in the SDNPA Plan?

Practicalities:

If it is decided by KPC that we should consider producing a Neighbourhood Plan, we must:

- Decide whether to have this as the theme at the Parish meeting, inviting Chris Paterson to talk.
- Discuss with Chris P the approach that we want him to take, so that residents are aware of the need for them to become involved to make this a reality
- Strong communication before the Parish meeting so that residents come prepared with their thoughts and – hopefully – offers of help
- Plan in place to “get it done” – e.g steering group to decide priorities of the plan and to set up separate groups to look at different aspects (with each group having a lead councillor?). Steering group to be lead by whoever is Chair of KPC. Administrative support and support from SDNPA to be in place.

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