

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Neighbourhood Plan Working Party

Full Council – 16 October 2018

1. Introduction

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Party held a public meeting on Thursday 13 September 2018 and this report provides details of this meeting.

2. Report Details

- 2.1** The public meeting was advertised on the Parish Council website, in the Swindon Adver, on the Central Library noticeboard and invites were sent to local groups and organisations through Mark Walker at Swindon Borough Council. 20 people attended the meeting.
- 2.2** The meeting included a presentation by Karen Phimister, Planner (Planning Policy) at Swindon Borough Council who gave details of what was involved in producing a Neighbourhood Plan in terms of time and costs. This was followed by the Clerk talking about her experiences of producing a Neighbourhood Plan whilst Clerk at Wroughton Parish Council and the Chair reported the current position of the Parish Council. The meeting concluded with questions from the public.
- 2.3** The task of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for a parish the size of South Swindon would be complex and would have to be split into different sections to cover the very different areas within the parish. There were other cities that had produced Neighbourhood Plans and Ms Phimister suggested looking at the plans for Bristol and Leeds.
- 2.4** What became clear through the discussion was the need for the Neighbourhood Plan to be driven by a dedicated group of people; this could be members of residents' groups; other local organisations; Parish Councillors and just interested members of the public. This would encourage more community engagement and cohesion. It was not sufficient for it to be produced solely by Parish Councillors. Of the people present, 3 indicated that they would like to be involved.
- 2.5** The Parish Council needs to find a way to engage with parishioners and find people interested in being part of the production of a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. It will be a reasonable commitment as the Neighbourhood Plan will take approximately 3 years to complete.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1** That the report of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party be noted.
- 3.2** That consideration be given to how to encourage more public to become interested in assisting with the development of a Neighbourhood Plan.