

COMMENTS FROM ALAN THOMPSON (COMMUNITY MONITOR) 9 Jan 2017

Another very informative meeting.

My main observation points are:-

It was obvious from the questions to Nigel that, although the group have been deeply involved for a number of months there is still a lack of knowledge about the planning process and the way planners judge applications. This is understandable as the majority of the group, including myself, have not have professional knowledge of the process.

My concerns are -

Does the group require more time to discuss further the land allocations made?

How do we pass the information on to the community, who will have the same questions as the group had about the process? This must be addressed before the referendum is carried out.

Another reason for more time to be available is there are a large number of decisions to be made in regard to re-allocation of sports and amenity sites.

I have raised this concern before. Should there be an effort to engage the sports clubs to be involved? Unfortunately there is a large amount of apathy in the public domain, but it must be shown that a great deal of effort has been made to involve them.

Now could be the time to be very controversial and put into the public domain the suggested land allocations showing the present sports areas as potential residential sites?

This, of course could be too controversial and upset the referendum.

I have made the last two points to engage the group with the concerns I have.

The notice included with the Newsletter asking for sites to be suggested only gives an email address or access via the web site. There is no postal address or suggested dropping off place for suggestions for those who do not have access to the internet or the ability to process a map of the site and forward it via email.

I would value the observations of an additional "Critical friend" of the N.P. Group being appointed and would welcome feed back on my observations.

To finish on a positive point I have every confidence the group, with the excellent knowledge and assistance of Nigel, are aware of my observations above and will already have thought about or will address them shortly.