

CROXTON PARISH COUNCIL AND BRETtenham & KILVERSTONE PARISH COUNCILS

Joint Neighbourhood Plan Development Progress Report 2

Purpose of Report The purpose of this report is to provide Croxton and Brettenham & Kilverstone Parish Councils with an update on progress made in respect of the production of the Joint Neighbourhood Plan (JNP) between April and September 2016.

Progress April to September 2016

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): a Summary (Scoping) Document which outlined the potential areas for policy development was submitted to Breckland Council on 25 Mar 16 for onward transmission by Breckland Council to the statutory Environmental bodies - Historic England, Environment Agency, and Natural England – in order to gain their views on whether a formal Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be required.

This is a formal process and can take up to 6 weeks. At the time of the production of the first Progress Report on 30 Apr 2016, the Parish Councils were only aware of the views of one of the statutory agencies - the Environment Agency had responded and confirmed they do not consider SEA is be required.

Heritage England responded to Breckland Council on 26 Apr 16 and came to a similar conclusion. Natural England responded to Breckland Council on 12 May 16, however they raised some concerns about the potential impact of new development on designated sites and concluded that SEA would be required.

Unfortunately due to a change in personnel and Breckland Council, the Parish Councils were not made aware of the Natural England response and it was only when the formal opinion of Breckland Council that SEA would be required was received by the Parishes on 22 Jul 16 that this came to light.

Further clarification was sought from Breckland Council and it has been concluded that there has been some misunderstanding of the remit and intention of the JNP by Natural England and that they have erroneously concluded that the plan is promoting further new development (above and beyond that already allocated in the SUE).

Advice therefore from Breckland Council has been that rather than produce a new scoping document and apply for a further Screening Opinion that the Parish Councils press on with production of a draft plan policies for consultation and that these policies provide the clarity of direction that will enable Natural England to revise their conclusions.

Draft Plan Production; whilst the delay in the receipt of a formal SEA Screening determination from Breckland Council has led to a delay in the original proposed timetable Progress has been made on firming up the policy areas to be covered in the JNP
These are:

1	Housing Design, Materials etc	Generic Policy
2	Housing Density	Generic Policy
3	Local Landscape character/gateways	Generic Policy (will be informed by Character Appraisal Work)
4	Influencing the detailed design of the SUE	Generic Policy (will be informed by Character Appraisal work)
5	Historic Environment/ Character	Generic Policy (will be informed by Character Appraisal Work)
6	Transport	Generic
7	Community Facilities in the SUE	Generic
8	Employment	Generic
9	Preservation of Landscape (Strategic gap) between Croxton Village and A11	Croxton (will be informed by Character Appraisal Work)
10	Conservation Area/Character policy	Croxton (will be informed by Conservation Area Appraisal Work)
11	Areas for Enhancement	Croxton(will be informed by Character Appraisal Work)
12	Alms Houses	Brettenham& Kilverstone
13	Conservation Area style policy/character Maintaining the distinctiveness of the three separate settlements Rushford, Brettenham and Kilverstone	Brettenham& Kilverstone (will be informed by Character Appraisal Work)
14	Areas for enhancement	Brettenham& Kilverstone (will be informed by Conservation Area Appraisal Work)

Work has also been progressing on drafts of the preliminary chapters:
Introduction, Living in..., Vision and Monitoring and Implementation

Character Appraisal Work: The Parishes have agreed on a character appraisal style approach to underpin their emerging policies. This approach has been endorsed by Breckland Council.

Survey Work has undertaken by both parishes on a systematic basis to appraise the local character of their area and to capture what they consider to be its cultural, historic, environmental and community value. The results of the character survey work will then be pulled together into one document that will help to inform the development of relevant policies. Both the character appraisal and the draft policies will be the subject of future public consultation

Timetable:

The next steps are currently programmed as follows:

- Mid September - Draft Policies and Character Appraisal Work to be finished
- Parish Councils will consider draft policies at their September meetings
- End of September - 1st Draft character appraisal to be completed by end of September
- Early-mid October - informal Public consultation event to be held in early to mid-October 2016, where comments on both the character appraisal and the draft policies will be invited.
- November/December - Formal Public Consultation (6 weeks)

Andrea Long MRTPI – September 2016