**Murton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Working Party**

**Report to the Murton Parish Council meeting on September 9th 2020**

**1.**    **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)**

The SEA and HRA have now been proofread by Alastair.

We have been informed by the CYC officers that there is one document which is currently being produced which is of importance to our HRA document and it should be available during this month. This is in relation to a new Appropriate Assessment document for the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan. This means our HRA will need to be updated again in a couple of places to reflect this new evidence.

**2**. **Maps for the Neighbourhood Plan**

Although the CYC map maker is still away on sick leave, the officers are making alternative arrangements for us. We need maps for the Plan itself and for several of the ancillary documents. The drafts of the maps will be delivered by us shortly to West Offices.

**3.**    **Photos for the Neighbourhood Plan**

We have now inserted the photos into the main report and are editing the whole report to ensure that we have them in the most appropriate places. Some of the aerial photos taken specially for us by David Jenkins illustrate the commentary.

A problem is emerging, that the file is beginning to be too big! We need expert advice on how to manage it.

 **4. Appendix F Local Green Space Report.**

We have already agreed to propose the following should be deemed as Local Green Spaces:

1.**The Village Pond, off Moor Lane**

**2. The Village Green, Murton Way/Murton Lane**

**3. Allotments, Moor Lane**

**4. St James’s Churchyard**

**5. Grassed area, off Osbaldwick Link Road**

**6.The Copse, Moor Lane**

We propose that we add to the list, in view of the Parish Council’s initiative to create and maintain a wildflower sanctuary:

**7. Moor Lane verge**

**5. Public Consultation**

Amongst the latest advice from the government to those, like us, producing Neighbourhood Plans (which we picked up from Locality, the body which manages the Government’s programme to support Councils such as ours to produce Neighbourhood Plans) is this note:

**Public consultation: The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 require neighbourhood planning groups and local planning authorities to undertake publicity in a manner that is likely to bring it to the attention of people who live, work or carry on business in the neighbourhood area at particular stages of the process. It is not mandatory that engagement is undertaken using face-to-face methods. However, to demonstrate that all groups in the community have been sufficiently engaged, such as with those without internet access, more targeted methods may be needed including by telephone or in writing. Local planning authorities may be able to advise neighbourhood planning groups on suitable methods and how to reach certain groups in the community.**

We have asked the CYC officers for advice. By opting for a public consultation without a ‘drop-in’ we could save many months as we await the Covid-19 restrictions to be eased.

**6. Planning for the Future**

The government has recently publishes a white paper, *Planning for the Future*

  The reforms are significant and wide ranging. The white paper emphasises improvements in areas such as design standards and use of technology in modernising planning processes.

In a recent statement, Locality has pointed out:

The plans also include changes which would simplify land categories into three zones (growth, renewal and protected) in order to speed up the process for identifying potential building land. The role of local plans will be changed significantly. They would be used to divide up local planning authority land into the three new zones, and their remit would shift from setting development management policies to the development of design codes, guides and parameters instead. While these design proposals will be subject to a local democratic process, this will only be at the point of initial decision-making – with no ongoing framework for public consultation and community control. **The reforms to local plans could also have significant implications for the role of neighbourhood planning, potentially reducing their scope and ability to make site allocations.**

Locality will be monitoring these developments and will be asking for our input.