**Murton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Working Party**

**Report to the Murton Parish Council September 11th 2019**

1. **Murton Parish Neighbourhood Plan**

As reported in our last report to the Parish Council at their July meeting, we had a very helpful meeting with Anna Pawson and Alison Cooke, the CYC officers ‘looking after’ our Plan. In it, we discussed possible changes that would be helpful, changes that had been influenced by experience of other Neighbourhood Plans submitted by the CYC for independent examination. They emphasised that their suggestions are not mandatory, they are advisory and it is our decision on whether we accept them. In brief, their recommendations were:

***Section 1. Introduction*.** Emphasise further how the Plan fits into the wider national and local planning.

Acknowledgement section should be added

***Section 2. Our aims.*** Add a list of objectives

***Section 3 Murton Neighbourhood Plan. Its context and General Data.*** Very thorough but reduce and put more in an Appendix

***Section 4 Community and stakeholder engagement*.** Helpful

***Section 5 Local Space Designation*.** Transfer some of Section 3 to here

***Section 6 Policies*** Reorganise substantially to highlight the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Local Plan policies before introducing ours.

Two policies need further discussion (EMP1 and HAC1) as they could conflict with the Local Plan. Otherwise Policies conform to the NPPF and the Local Plan.

**Section 7 Non-Neighbourhood Plan Issues** These could be strengthened with Policies.

Some of the points raised conflict with advice we received from Dave Chetwyn but, as Anna and Alison pointed out, they reflect the decisions made by Inspectors on other Neighbourhood Plans produced in York.

We have worked since then on specific points that they raised and on the ***pamphlet*** that the Parish Council will have to send to all residents, businesses and other stakeholders prior to submitting the Plan formally to the CYC. The pamphlet and its covering letter from the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Chairman of the Working Party is the main avenue through which everyone will be able to comment on the Plan. They will be able to read the whole Plan on request but experience tells us that most do not want to wade through 300+ pages when a digest of 12 is available.

Since the meeting, we have drafted the following:

1. **The pamphlet that goes to everyone.**
2. **A covering letter for the pamphlet from the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Chairman of the Working Party**
3. **A reply form to go with the pamphlet**
4. **A Foreword for the Neighbourhood Plan**
5. **A revised Section 1, Introduction, which meets points from CYC**
6. **A new Section 2, Preparation of the Murton Parish Neighbourhood Plan which meets points from CYC**
7. **A revised Section 6, Policies, which meets the points from the CYC**

We have written a new section to start the policies, Section 6.1. One of the most important criticisms was that we had written the evidence sections for each policy too freely, muddling evidence from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the emerging Local Plan and our questionnaires. This was a fair point and we were able to rearrange each section relatively easily. To help the reader, we have written a new introduction, Section 6.1, to explain how each section is uniformly arranged.

We are discussing

1. **The papers (i) to (vii) above**
2. **Methods of distributing the pamphlet**
3. **Methods of collecting the response forms, including the use of our website.**
4. **The  Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Habitat Regulation Survey (both needed at the time of public consultation)**

These are substantial documents (totalling over 100 pages each) and we have good exemplars from other Neighbourhood Plans in nearby parishes. We are at the moment, using those from Heslington and Earswick. We can use these as guides, even to the point of copying them verbatim ensuring that the points are relevant to our Parish. Work has yet to begin on these.

1. **Next steps**

We have sent (i) to (vii) to Alison and Anna and meeting with them on two occasions in September. The first is on Tuesday, September 10th at 2 pm and the second on will be on Thursday, September 19th at 2.30 pm.