**Neighbourhood Development Plan discussion - September 26th 2016.**

**In attendance 24 North Newnton parishioners, 6 North Newnton parish councillors.**

The meeting started at 7.05p.m. These notes are not personally attributed to speakers and cannot cover all points made, but are intended as a summary of contributions. Carolyn Whistler (Chair NNPC) introduced Peter Deck (PD) who had been the main driver behind Pewsey’s production of an NDP. He took the floor to share his experiences and be the focus of discussion/clarification.

The emphasis of an NDP is to guide development and not to hinder it. If NNPC goes ahead, Wiltshire Council (WC) will appoint a dedicated planning officer to assist, and there will be grants available for some aspects of plan creation. The preparatory work needed is significant – reading and adopting the national Planning Policy Framework and the WC core strategy.

It needs to be recognised that an NDP is a community issue, not a parish council issue (although funds may come via the parish council). There needs to be a dedicated working party, and probably a firm “champion” in place before this is started. It is likely that from start to finish would be 2 years, and then formal acceptance by Wiltshire Council and an independent planning inspector could lead to a necessary formal referendum run by WC to gain acceptance.

It was aired that Pewsey had need of a formal plan to site development as they had to find a number of newly built houses and there were also issues around employment. North Newnton (NN) could well be different. It was not felt that there were any areas that would naturally be put forward for possible development in the parish. The WC core strategy restricts development in small villages to infill, and it was aired that the space between the 3 communities (Bottlesford, Hilcott and North Newnton) would not be classified as infill.

PD commented that being an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty would not of itself protect North Newnton parish from development.

With regard to timing, PD felt it likely that NN ***could*** complete the work in 2 years, which given that it could not start before 2017 would mean completion and hopefully formal approval in 2019/20. The WC core strategy goes out to 2026, and WC will start work on updating around 2020! In general terms it is likely that both the government and WC will be looking for more housing in the period after 2026, and thus Wiltshire’s core strategy may change, perhaps significantly. It was not certain that a second grant towards the cost of an NDP if it had to be updated after 2020 would be available. There was a feeling that the short time for which a newly generated NDP would be effective detracted from its cost-effectiveness.

A view was put forward that a plan intending to safeguard the parish would be a legacy for the next generation to include not just the buildings, but the environment, wildlife etc. However, it was again emphasised that an NDP was a guide for planning and not a bar to it. NN had received a good response to its questionnaire last year (nearly 40% of households responded) and thus NN has significant relevant information on many of the required “headings” of an NDP.

The meeting could not identify a champion to take on the project. It would have to be driven by the community with the parish council acting as facilitator not the driver or the working party. A “Question Time” type show of hands demonstrated around one third of those at the meeting saw an immediate way forward with an NDP.

On a broader, national level there were concerns about the cost of any legal skirmishing if an NDP was challenged, but to date there has been no successful action or plans called in by the Secretary of State.

The very lively and intense meeting ended at 8.00. Report prepared by Hugh Gross 26/9/16.