



South Lenches Neighbourhood Plan

South Lenches Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.
Minutes for meeting held on Tuesday 2nd May, Church Lench
Village Hall at 7pm.
Meeting No: 3/16

<p>Present: Committee: Ian Jackson (Chairman), Denise Oates (Vice-chair), David Edge, David Proops, John Tookey, Neil Pearce (APS), Mel Shore (Chairman of South Lenches Parish Council).</p> <p>Volunteers: Carol Jones, Ken Jones, Pauline Grainger, Richard Barton, Geoff Dainty, Mike Cross, Chris Cross.</p>	
<p>1. Apologies. Joan Hunt, Jan Harrison, Emma Buckingham, Liz Ferguson and Nicky Holland.</p>	
<p>2. Public Question Time: Nil.</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of meeting held on 6th February 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
<p>4. Chairman introduction:</p> <p>Chairman confirmed the purpose of the meeting was as a training session to prepare to carry out a Character Assessment of the parish with particular emphasis on the four villages, Church Lench, Atch Lench, Ab Lench and Sheriffs Lench.</p> <p>Initial quotations had been obtained for this to be done using landscape consultants but it had quickly become clear that the cost was likely to be in excess of £6000. After consultation with our NP Consultant Neil Pearce of APS, Ian and Denise had decided that we could not justify spending taxpayer's money on something we could do the using our own committee and local volunteers, even though it would take longer and possibly not be as polished.</p> <p>Many other Steering Groups had done their own assessments. The committee had approved this course of action in Email correspondence.</p> <p>Neil Pearce had come along to brief the group on the purpose and nature of a Character Assessment and explain what needed to be done.</p>	

5. Neil Pearce. Neil gave the following briefing:

Neil gave an illustrated PowerPoint presentation showing how other groups had set about their own Character Assessments, using extracts, maps and photographs from Loders PC and Wootton Wawen PC as examples.

He explained about the importance of local volunteers walking their own territory with maps and using the 'Proforma' documents from Planning Aid. The Chairman had already circulated copies of Planning Aid booklets 'How to prepare a character assessment to support design policy within a neighbourhood plan' and 'Character assessment pro forma notes'.

Neil provided A5 copies of the parish map from SWDP inset 63. Ian commented that it was very disappointing how difficult it had been to obtain more up to date maps from Wychavon and especially ones with house names on, as these were used every day in the planning department. Not the help we had been promised.

Neil emphasised the need to clearly describe what we see and especially to mark clearly on the maps the views and 'valued landscapes' we would want to recommend protecting, as well as any other features of historical or visual importance. We can also designate specific 'local green spaces' to be preserved without needing permission from the landowner.

It was noted that some of the Defined Development Boundaries are out of date, especially along Low Road, and we would have the opportunity to ask Wychavon to bring them into line with existing development. In terms of considering the possibility of finding land for low cost/affordable/retirement development, particularly to address the future needs of an ageing population we cannot designate land within the existing development boundaries for that purpose, but should look for opportunities for Rural Exception Sites SWDP 16 which may be permissible beyond the existing boundaries if a) landowners are willing to sell and b) Planning Department agree and c) the community agrees.

Neil confirmed that extra funding was available from Locality up to £9000 for fees for site assessments should we find any.

6. Team allocation.

The group agreed to split into 2 teams to cover Church Lench, Atch Lench and Ab Lench and Ian would consult with Chrissie Brown re organising a local group to look at Sheriff's Lench separately.

Among the volunteers present were Geoff Dainty and Mike Cross who are experienced photographers who are allocated to separate teams and Mel Shore (PC Chairman) volunteered to join a team.

Ian Jackson and Denise Oates agreed to lead a team each and teams were split as follows:

Ian's Team: (Atch Lench, Atch Lench Road and Low Road, Church Lench.

David Proops, David Edge, John Tookey, Mike Cross (photos) and Chris Cross, Jan Harrison, Julia Tyrell, Pauline Grainger.

Denise's Team: Evesham Road, Main Street including conservation area,

<p>Malthouse Lane, The Croft, Ab Lench Road and Ab Lench. Geoff Dainty (photos), Mel Shore, Richard Barton, Carol Jones, Ken Jones, Liz Ferguson, Emma Buckingham and possibly Les Evans. Ian will look into footpath/bridleway views with some of the walkers in the group when the main walkabouts are completed. Dedicated A4 maps for the teams and spare pro-formas as well as clip boards will be made available. Hopefully we will have made good progress by the time of our next meeting on June 12th.</p>	
<p>Next meeting. June 12th 2017. Meeting closed at 9.00pm.</p>	