

Ravensthorpe Village Design Statement Review Group

Minutes of Meeting held 11 Feb 2015

8pm, Manor View Studio

Present: Richard Marsh (chair) , Nick Ellison, Cliff Giles, Di Hayes, John Mott, Margaret Lewis, Viv Rees, Ray Wadlow

1. Apologies: Mike Cobbe, Chris Freeman, Dave Rees, Mary Worthington

2. Minutes of meeting held on 7 January accepted as accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

Local Business List Circulated. Gleaned from online & hard copy trader directories and Companies House checks , this revealed 28 "active" Limited Companies registered in the village and 17 other businesses advertising from the village. There will almost certainly be others that are not so "public". VDS will only present an outline summary, not a full list.

Special Landscape Area Designation for area around the village. Not one of the "saved" Daventry policies cancelled in the new Joint Core Strategy, though DDC will probably review its saved policies at some point, as a normal routine. We will check for any plans to change it with DDC as we near final draft. We will have to do a sense check at that stage anyway, for "fit" with all other external changes to policy, legislation. etc

Audit Trail for changes to 1999 Version of VDS RM will produce an annotated copy of the final revised VDS with references to sources of all substantive changes to content, eg consultation info, updated data sources.

4. Draft Text Review

Various revisions to draft Ver 3a were discussed - including:

- Include importance of open strip in Top Ardles Wood, to facilitate Reservoir view from village end
- Include Allotments in important open spaces section
- Duplications of text between sections and between text and guidelines
- Avoidance of derogatory references to individual properties .
- Need to separate out factual statements (ie description of the current character) and guidelines (recommendations to guide planning decisions) -some text sections had guideline-like statements and some existing guidelines read as statements
- Avoidance of statements of opinion (eg "it is of concern that..") unless they can be referenced to consultation or data to prove they are representative of the village.

- Care needed with use of "blanket objections" to infrastructure projects (eg to wind turbines, gravel pits, new railways) . Decisions on these would swing on national and District policies rather than a VDS, unless there are specific local reasons for objection to a specific local plan - for example the existence of an endangered species in the locality that would be affected by such a plan.

If such local reasons are known, it would be sensible to include them in the text. As we have the reservoir nature reserve and its water catchment around the village , **ML** to seek advice from her RSPB contact, other advice would be welcome.

- General need to make the text shorter by removal of duplicated and un-necessary text.

In view of the number of individual revisions, it was not possible to go through the text line-by-line in the meeting time available.

Action - **All** to submit specific text revisions (referenced by page and section location) to RM as soon as possible, for collation into an updated draft.

5. Draft Guideline Review

RM circulated a list of all the existing guidelines, extracted from the current document and cross reference against the main section headings proposed for the updated version. The Spratton guidelines were also listed , for comparison.

The proposal is to put a list of guidelines at the end of each section (Landscape, Buildings etc), under the text description of the current situation and character . We need to review the text of each guideline and allocate it to the most suitable section. Some could fall into more than one section. It may be necessary to move part of the supporting text to whichever section is chosen

A few issues were raised:

- At least one guideline appears to conflict with an element of the text..
- Some of the Spratton guidelines would be good models for updating their Ravensthorpe equivalents.
- Points on duplication and separation of text from guidelines, as per the text review.

Actions:

All to submit views on each of the guidelines as a "score" (0= recommend deletion to 9 = keep unchanged) together with text to explain/recommend amendments/alternative text. Ideally as annotation on original document. Send to RM, as soon as possible please.

All also to recommend section into which to put each guideline (ie Landscape, Buildings etc)

RM to collate results into next draft and email it to group by mid March.

6. Village Meeting & Other Communications/Consultation

It was agreed that once collated, the revised draft (clearly marked as such) would be posted on the village website by **RM**, to allow interested persons to follow developments.

This would be mentioned in the newsletter.

Recent ("things we like") photos of the village area to be requested from the readers, as they will prove useful in the final presentation and encourages local involvement in the project. NB This is separate to "targeted" photography to illustrate and define specific views.

A village meeting to be set up, probably in May or thereabouts, to allow the public to look at the draft and comment, possibly also to carry out village walks, gather photos etc.

Aim for Saturday or Sunday & avoid bank holiday weekends as people more likely to be away.

VR offered to provide some poster boards for the meeting.

RM to check Hall / Church availability for meeting.

VR to "Doodle poll" VDS group members to check availability and steer on best possible date.

Newsletter article to be posted ahead of meeting when date agreed (**VR**).

7. Any Other Business

"Important Views" were discussed with reference to the fact that some of these may have changed since 1999 as result of Top Ardles planting and infill developments. Photography will be important in defining these.

8. Next Meeting

This will principally be to put together the detail for the Village Meeting.

Dates proposed around **18 March**.

RM may be unable to attend, in which case it was agreed **VR** will chair.

VR to do an "e-mail calendar" mail-shot to check availability. If group members have not received this within 4 days please contact her individually to advise availability.