

**EASINGWOLD TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL
MEETING HELD AT THE GALTRES CENTRE ON 10th SEPTEMBER
2019**

Present: Councillors C. Barnes (Vice-Chairman), A. Gledhill, C. Fletcher, F. Johnston-Banks, K. Osborne, K. Butcher, R. Tanfield, R. Varney, District Councillor, M. Taylor

Clerk: Mrs J. Bentley

19/86	APOLOGIES Apologies were received from Councillors Nottage, Madden, Shepherd, District Councillor Knapton, County Councillor P. Sowray and reasons given approved.
19/87	MINUTES The minutes of the Meeting of the Council 20 th August were considered and approved for signature.
	It was resolved to adjourn the meeting for up to 15 minutes to take questions or comments through the Chairman from members of the public. There were 7 members of the public present. Q1: Has the infrastructure been addressed in the Local Plan with all of the developments? A: As much as is possible. Q2: Is the CIL money generated for Easingwold spent in Easingwold? A: 15% goes to the Town Council, 85% goes to Hambleton District Council, this is spent according to their priority list, not necessarily in Easingwold; although additional funding from other sources including Hambleton District Council does come to the town. Q3: What is the process for planning for the extra 125 houses in the Local Plan? A: It is the standard planning process. Outline planning permission is initially asked for, then detailed planning follows. Each stage gives the local town council and public an opportunity to comment. Q4: How many houses will be affordable houses? A: Under the new local plan, for developments of 10 houses or more 30% of the development is anticipated to be affordable houses, although is subject to some supplementary assessments such as viability. Smaller developments will have no affordable housing quotient. Q5. How could Easingwold Town Council improve their communication to the public regarding development plans? A: A newsletter is distributed throughout the town and available online. Minutes of meetings are online and available to view at the Council offices. There is an update printed in the Easingwold Advertiser once every two months.
19/88	HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN A presentation on the Local Plan was received from Planning Officers from Hambleton District Council. The background to the plan was that some 2 years ago a lot of development was anticipated for Hambleton District Council as a whole. Under the new Local Plan, based on new need assessments, the current rate of supply, extant planning permissions and building rates; there are not as many sites in the plan as initially thought likely. This leaves a relatively small amount of development required in the plan. Sites identified in the plan add up to 1500 homes, of which, Thirsk & Northallerton are the main development areas. Followed by the other the market towns and service villages. There are not sites allocated in every village, although it is anticipated that small developments will be considered separately based on specific needs. Query: The allocated EAS1 development of 125 homes on Husthwaite Road is based on securing the future of Easingwold Primary School by providing 3.5 acres of school grounds needed to secure its expansion needs. When will Easingwold Primary School need to be extended to meet actual pupil demand, so that the timing for this development is clearer? Answer: Hambleton District Council is identifying requirements with NYCC, it is difficult to predict likely numbers, but the planners will continue to try and establish when the additional 3.5 acres will be needed at Easingwold.

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Query: What is the definition of affordable housing? How is affordable housing being managed with an ageing population combined in Easingwold with the desire to serve young people and retain them within Easingwold? Answer: the national definition has been replicated in the back of the local plan and will incorporate discount market housing, depending on local circumstances. It includes shared equity and traditional social and affordable rented housing.

Query: In development EAS1 for 125 houses, how will that be defined in terms of affordable housing? Answer: HDC will be seeking 30% of 125 therefore 37/38. Of these 41 houses 10% would be discount market or shared equity, 10% social rented, 10% affordable rented.

Query: Is the need for social housing increasing or decreasing? Answer: There is a need for affordable housing in Easingwold and more 2- and 3-bedroom homes although Hambleton District Council are somewhat bound by the national rules of the 30% set. It might help Hambleton District Council if Easingwold Town Council should request a larger percentage.

Query: How can we pressure Hambleton District Council to consider the 'soundness' of these volumes or adapt them? Answer: One possibility would be to look at going for an entry level exception scheme.

Query: We are concerned at the limited open space in Easingwold; limited additional green space arising even though there is more continuously housing. The Local Plan nominates as green space some woodland at Drovers Court, but how can this be protected and assured when it is in private ownership? Answer: This nomination will limit usability of Drovers Court woodland. It will only be possible to look at green space requirements at a future date.

Query: How does the plan address our growing health and social care requirements as 73% of Easingwold's population are over 50 and we have the oldest and most aging population in the district. The current care home, Springhill Court, is full and there is no provision for any more care homes which seems remiss? Answer: There is no provision for any allocations of more care homes. (*Easingwold Town Council suggested Tanpit Lodge could be upgraded as a care home as well as a renal care for the Southern Area of the district*). There only provision in the plan to increase the accessibility standard of existing and new homes so that people should be able to live in their own homes for longer; these are termed optional accessibility standards.

Query: There is very little land allocated to commercial employment opportunities; how are we going to bring young people in or keep them here if there are few training or employment opportunities? Answer: The local plan has the majority of employment is based in the Dalton and Leeming Bar areas with their strategic access networks. Limited opportunities have been put forward elsewhere and it is difficult to be positive and put lots of sites in for employment if Hambleton District Council are unable to prove there is a market for them. Market town rural road links are not good.

Query: ETC would describe our commercial and retail situation under the plan as static for the foreseeable future. We are especially concerned that our current primary retail area does not include all the main, central retail and commercial sites in the town and believe it should be extended? Answer: Such adjustments are not included in the current plan.

Query: Transport, especially public transport is an issue for the town, both as it grows and as a service centre. Progressively the level of public transport is going down and down; there is a demand that private cars be exchanged for public transport. Where is the examination of the

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level of transport undertaken? Why is there is no provision to separate cycling from road users? Answer: The local transport plan is produced by NYCC and defining settlement hierarchies takes into account public transport.

Query: How is 'soundness and legal compliance defined?' Answer: Soundness is to do with what's included or not in the plan. Legal compliance is to do with the process and whether the plan has been put together legally or not. HDC also has a duty to co-operate with neighbouring authorities, such that, if neighbours can't find sites, then Hambleton District Council has a duty to work with them, although this is more common in the South of England.

With this input the Council then discussed how it should put together a response to the Local Plan draft in relation to Easingwold's needs to be submitted before the deadline in the next week. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would investigate how to submit the response. Councillor Varney would identify evidence on employment; Councillors Fletcher and Johnston-Banks would identify evidence of affordable housing; Councillors Osborne and Johnston-Banks evidence on transport; Councillor Barnes will contact EDCCA to investigate social care. All evidence will be submitted to Councillor Barnes by Thursday 12th September or Friday 13th September, who will then prepare a draft response to circulate electronically for agreement over the weekend. The final document will be created and will be submitted by the Clerk on Monday 16th September.

It was **AGREED** that the Neighbourhood Plan will be placed on the October council meeting agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.22 pm