Diss & District Neighbourhood Plan – report to Stuston Parish AGM

April 2019

As one of the two representatives from Stuston on the Diss and District Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, my report to the Parish AGM is as follows: -

At the risk of embarrassing David Burn, progress within the Steering Group has moved on considerably since he took over as Chair last Autumn.

We are in the process of appointing a firm of professional planning engineers to formulate our (collective) responses and requirements in the Neighbourhood Plan which will run for the next 15 years.

In summary, the Steering Group has taken on board the comments from the public consultations carried out last year and seeks to implement these into the programme mentioned above, with transport and communications high on our agenda.

With specific reference to Stuston, it is clear from a recent report from the Environmental Agency on a planning application (from 2018) that surface water (rain water) run off from ANY development CANNOT be accommodated within the various water course through the village and therefore any planning application would be rejected on these grounds – hence unless there are other mitigating circumstances, it is unlikely that any planning application would be granted.

Funding for village activities has been boosted from what we believe is the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) from the BP / M&S / McDonalds project on the A140 / 143 intersection – so some benefit ensures.

As part of the same project, the application by McDonalds for a 12m tall “totem pole” sign is being discussed by Mid Suffolk DC planning in early June, I understand that the motion is being objected to by various parties on that grounds that it would be out of keeping with the local environment.

Looking to the future, it has been proposed that any (significant) planning application in Stuston, in conjunction with the other parishes in the Diss & District group should be collated by the group’s secretariat for inclusion within the planning horizon.

Please contact either Roger or myself through the Phil Gerrie if you would like more information or to assist in the roll out of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Steve Leigh