**Summary report to Working Group from Village Meeting 24 January 2019**

* The meeting generated a large number of suggestions. There was a marked similarity with the results of the similar exercise conducted for the original Neighbourhood Plan in 2012. This might indicate that much of the content of that plan remains relevant and/or that not all the aspirations it included have been realised.
* Many of the ideas generated will not fit easily into a revised Neighbourhood Development Plan. Some might be better addressed through other means.
* The overall tone of the meeting was weighted more to protecting the unique features of the current community/environment rather than introducing innovative new ideas
* From the comments on the Boards the key issues are local control over housing development, traffic and parking in the village, the route of the Exe Estuary Trail and the need to safeguard the ‘nature of the village’ in the natural environment.

**Board 1: Housing**

There seems to be a strong desire to maintain the existing built up boundary line and strengthen the protection for the green wedge to maintain Lympstone’s identity.

There seems to be some concern that recent development has not met the needs of the community; in particularly the need for affordable housing and suitable housing for older citizens.

**Board 2: Flooding & Waste Management**

Few suggestions generated (perhaps a reflection of the detailed work undertaken?). Several comments about particular problems.

**Board 3: Getting Around**

The community seems most concerned with addressing the immediate problems caused by the number of private cars in the village/on the A376 with only a few individuals suggesting longer term solutions/promotion of other methods of transport.

**Board 4: Social Sustainability**

The comments on this board seem to reflect the views expressed throughout the meeting that it is important to maintain the special features of life in Lympstone. This understanding underpins the existing plan and it is difficult to see how this could be improved, except perhaps by expressing this more directly in the introduction to the revised plan?

**Board 5: Environmental Sustainability**

There is clearly an interest in learning more about, and seeking ways to introduce, alternative sources of energy, but in scale and without adversely affecting the local environment.

**Board 6: Economic Sustainability**

There seems to be a growing interest (from 2012) in some sort of shared office/workshop facilities – perhaps located at Goodmore’s farm

**Board 7: Community Involvement**

Constructive suggestions included using the Lympstone Facebook page to involve younger people in the revision of the neighbourhood plan. In addition people volunteered to act as links to the younger community.

**Recommendations**

(note – these are just based on my experience of the meeting – obviously I have not been involved in the earlier discussions of the working group so am unaware of other plans)

1. It would be helpful when feeding back the results of this initial consultation to clarify which aspects are relevant to the revision of the Plan and which, whilst of great merit, are really outwith it’s scope. At the same time it would be helpful to give more clarity (for example through information in the Herald/on the website, or through a community seminar) on the planning process and what control local people can have over development.

‘*Need to understand what planning rules can and cannot achieve’*

1. It might be appropriate to put some specific proposals (e.g. strengthening protection of the Green Wedge) back to the community at an early stage as these could provide some ‘quick wins’.

*‘Protection of the Green Wedge should be of the highest priority’*

1. In my opinion the two biggest issues for consideration for a revised Neighbourhood Plan suggested by the meeting were traffic management in the village and how approaches to recycling and alternative forms of energy generation might contribute to environmental sustainability. It might be more beneficial if, as well as addressing immediate concerns, the community could be encouraged to look to the longer term in considering these matters. Therefore rather than an open focus group it might be preferable to seek some expertise to provide concrete, achievable proposals that could then be discussed at a focus group or similar meeting.

‘*Investigate villages that have come up with solutions for parking problems’*

*‘Support wind and solar generation as long as in scale and run by and for the community’*

*‘Become a plastic free village/community’*

1. It would be useful to summarise the various suggestions for community action (e.g. the suggestions for support for elderly citizens) that are really out with the Neighbourhood Plan revision and see whether individuals wish to volunteer to take these forward (e.g. the Exe Estuary Trail Group emerged from activity around the original plan).

*‘Establish walking groups to promote health and wellbeing’*

1. I’d suggest someone is nominated to follow up the suggestions for involving young people that emerged from the meeting. (Vicki d/Susan B have links to young community and are happy to share/promote)

‘*A framework to spark discussion on social media. We have a ‘growing up in Lympstone’ Facebook page with about 400 members.’*

1. Recommend a glossary or FAQ section on website to clarify e.g. ‘sustainability’, ‘Goodmores farm’

*‘What is sustainability?’*

*Mark Robertson, Diamond Facilitation 25 January 2019*