

Monks Kirby Neighbourhood Plan

Environment Theme Group

Meeting held on 10 August 2021

Notes

Present:

John Martin (Your Locale), Tim Washington, Sue Postlethwaite, Martin Yerbury, Jane Wright, Barbara Dent, Helen Varah, Pat Race, Nick Donnelly

Apologies; Andrew Gibbons

Declarations of interest. This section is taken from the notes for the Housing Theme Group but thought to be relevant

None were declared. Gary explained that as with PC meetings, it is important that anyone with a pecuniary or social interest in agenda items should declare them. This will not preclude the individual from the discussions (as this is not a decision-making meeting) but it is important to understand the context in which comments are made and declaring an interest will reduce the potential for challenge down the line.

It is a statutory requirement that all documents must be accessible

John Martin introduced himself and explained his background. The group members then introduced themselves and shared their particular interests. John then talked through the presentation regarding Environment Theme Groups within the Neighbourhood Plan.

Environment = significant and characteristic for Monks Kirby

The group must consider which part of the Plan is important for Monks Kirby and which part is not applicable. An evidence base must be collected from existing designations and local knowledge. A Neighbourhood Plan sits alongside the Local Plan but adds detail at a site specific location. A joint effort to be made and agreed with John regarding policies, narrative and maps. A Neighbourhood Plan cannot state a wish to prevent development but can direct development to the appropriate site.

Structure of Planning hierarchy:

NPPF – National Planning Policy Framework

WCC – Warwickshire County Council

RBC – Rugby Borough Council 2011 – 2038 Local Plan

Parish Councils add detail to Local Plan

Sustainable Development

1) Economic; 2) social; 3) environmental;

A Neighbourhood Plan can define an open space in perpetuity

Footpaths cannot be designated as open spaces but a policy can be written in to protect them.

A local list of significant historic buildings to be compiled.

John explained which topics in the introduction he will draft for discussion.

Local green spaces – protect land

Open green space - function/use transferable

Biodiversity and habitat connectivity – John will write

Group meeting to go through the documents to decide who will do what

Statutory Protected Assets = already protected. Residents to be asked if their house were to be put on a protected list

Views – sightlines in and out of the village – take photographs of views

John will compile an Action Plan. Martin Yerbury offered to take photographs and tramp round fields.

Group Leader – Pat Race offered to help and Tim Washington agreed to ask Andrew Gibbons Barbara Dent volunteered to be note taker.

Future Meetings – meeting of the Group (without John Martin) suggested for 8th or 9th September. Next meeting of the Group with John Martin week commencing 20th September

Actions suggested by Pat Race

1 - Land

- Look at the open green space (the land where the function needs to be preserved) on your map - is it right, anything to add / delete?
- Which additional areas would we consider as local green space (where the land itself should be preserved)?
- (All the above should be flavoured by what's in the conservation area and the rules around that)

2 - Environmental / biodiversity

- What areas do we want to nominate under environmental significance? What are the associated reasons? Have we got a balance across what might be of interest across the community?
- Have we got areas we want to nominate for biodiversity reasons (eg there are a number of badger sites, wild goose grazing, muntjac spots, stands of particular species of trees etc)?
- Where are the areas of ridge and furrow land? (We may not have much but we have at least one in the park land)

3 - Historic significance

- Is the list we have complete? Anything else we should add? (I noted Warwickshire.gov.uk/her as a source for this)

4 - Properties of interest

- What's listed?
- What else is of interest and why?
- Is there a style we particularly like that could inform new developments?

5 - Trees / hedges

- Are we clear on which are the specifically protected trees?
- Any other trees of interest we want to mention?
- Any hedges we feel worthy of mention?

- (Noting the difficulty you flagged in trying to protect all hedges / trees and the power of the conservation area rules to help here)

6 - Views

- What lines of sight / views of the village do we want to itemise?
- What views from the village?

7 - Flooding

- It sounds like the map we have in our pack may be fine but we should list out the areas that flood now with rain / field run off
- We should also list the areas that have flooded due to pipe bursts to help inform the development group
- Some idea of waste water flow through the area would be helpful (eg someone mentioned Withybrook water coming to our pumping station)

8 - Energy use

- I think we were agreed that new developments should be “sustainable” (construction / energy use etc) - but there is unlikely to be much
- We talked a bit about methods of retrofitting sustainable energy use eg solar, air / ground source heat pumps, turbines etc. Do we have views? Should we even go there given national and local plans are likely to sharpen up over coming years?

**Monks Kirby Neighbourhood Plan
Environment Theme Group
Meeting held on 9th September 2021
Notes**

Present:

Pat Race (Leader), Sue Postlethwaite, Martin Yerbury, Jane Wright, Barbara Dent, Helen Varah, Andrew Gibbons

Declarations of interest. None declared

A general discussion took place regarding the points raised at the previous meeting. Environmental significance – sites and corridors important for wildlife e.g. badgers, muntjacs, hedgehogs etc. Andrew Gibbons agreed to contact Warwickshire Wildlife Trust who are conducting a countywide survey. Input from the Wildlife Trust would add weight to our own policies. A wildlife survey might be a good project for the Queen's Jubilee at the appropriate time.

Actions before the next meeting

Land – Pat Race and Barbara Dent

Environmental/biodiversity – Andrew Gibbons. Information from the Parish Plan, WCC for maps and services. Parish Plan and Conservation Appraisal. List of local species, places of habitat.

Historical significance – Barbara Dent, list buildings and land www.warwickshire.gov.uk/her

Properties of Interest - Martin Yerbury to compile a list, suggestion to talk to a member of the Housing Theme Group regarding style for new developments.

Trees and hedgerows – Sue Postlethwaite

Important views – Helen Varah

Flooding and energy use to be left until later.

Anything Else???

The next meeting was arranged for Thursday 30th September at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Barbara Dent to book the hall and liaise with John Martin and remind about the information which he had agreed to circulate.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

Monks Kirby Neighbourhood Plan Environment Theme Group Meeting held on 2nd October 2021 Notes

Present:

John Martin (Your Locale), Pat Race (Leader), Sue Postlethwaite, Martin Yerbury, Jane Wright, Barbara Dent, Andrew Gibbons

Declarations of interest. None declared

Apologies: Helen Varah

Chair and Note taker roles: Pat Race (Chair); Barbara Dent (Notes)

Matters Arising 10th August, 9th September

John re-capped on 1st presentation.

Jane commented that all of the Parish was a bird flight path. The Denbigh Arms is registered as a community asset with RBC.

Andrew (ecology) re Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, unable to contact by phone intends to write to them. Biodiversity is not only a list but a need to encourage flora and fauna to flourish. Would like to detail what we have and how best to document and support. Andrew is still hoping to get a representative from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to visit the Parish and will also contact WCC, CPRE and RBC. Does RBC have a wildlife database – Andrew to investigate.

Review of Chapter Template

Land – ridge and furrow in Newnham Paddock Parkland.

Sue (trees and hedges) – good wildlife corridors, several areas of plantations. Notable trees – identify areas of woodland and hedges. John suggested a blanket policy for trees with a note to cover extra details. Trees can be covered in “views”. Notable trees to be marked on a map – John will send suitable map via Dropbox.

Martin (Properties of Interest) – As well as the acknowledged Listed Buildings the not listed buildings need to be documented. Martin has been researching interesting buildings in the Parish outside of the village and described the vernacular and architectural features throughout the Parish.

John suggested the RBC award winning buildings in St Edith’s Close could be included in the report if the Theme Group wished. Local significance of interesting buildings is the domain of the Environment theme Group but the Housing Theme Group would use the detail of such buildings.

There was a general consensus to keep the type of development we already have e.g. MK was first a linear village but now has a collection of small Closes but they do not create isolated sections of the village.

Views – need to be re-assessed from the Parish Plan and the countryside beyond.

John was reminded about the historic separation of Monks Kirby village and the previous hamlet of Brockhurst.

John explained that the most important reader of the Neighbourhood Plan would be the Examiner and all additional information creates an interesting impression.

Pages 25-27 Natural, Historical and Social Environment.

Evidence Gathering Methodologies

Score Local Green Spaces and Open Spaces together.

John explained the appendix based on the scoring system and the NPPF designation.

The Environment Policy is the most powerful section. Group to use the same scoring policy on both green and open spaces together with ecological and historical sites and John will produce an inventory table. Scoring will apply to specific areas only e.g. an SSI will only apply to that local area and not for instance the whole field/wood.

Monks Kirby Neighbourhood Plan Environmental Inventory: brief instructions – helpful suggestion from John Martin

- Create entries for, and score, all significant, accessible (or visible from a publicly accessible location if important for the village layout) open/undeveloped areas and parcels of land in and adjacent to the village. You should include all the areas mapped as **open spaces** in the **Conservation Area** assessment, **all four mapped by RBC as Open Space, policy HS4** (Inset map 22 in the Local Plan Rural Settlements Policies mapping). Any of these RBC sites that are ineligible or no longer exist will score too low to count as significant and this will demonstrate why the NP is not designating them.
- Also record and assess **any additional** or **omitted sites** you think are significant, including roadside verges and informal 'greens'.
- Record and assess all plots of land in *and outside* the village (in open countryside) you know to be of **wildlife** or **historical** significance. [I will check, and where necessary add entries for the existing designations sites - those already shown on the maps in the draft chapter]. This category may grow as a result of Andrew's investigations.
- In the inventory (p.3 of <Environmental Inventory blank>), for each site, write a line of description (column 2) to justify each score you give in columns 4 to 9 (if a site has no known 'historical significance', for example, nothing needs to be entered). Use the 'notes' on p.1 of <Environmental Inventory blank> to guide your decisions about scoring.
- Number (column 1) the sites you enter into the inventory and write these numbers on the corresponding sites/plots/areas on a copy of the key map(s) provided. Return the numbered map(s) to John Martin when the inventory is +/- complete. Start at 001 so the Inventory can be sorted by site number or any of the scored criteria - even if the inventory exceeds 100 sites.
- The score totals should produce a shortlist of potential Local Green Spaces (the highest scorers, over an agreed threshold) while the scores under particular criteria will help identify valid/defensible Important Open Space designations, plus history, biodiversity and ridge & furrow sites deserving of protection.

Actions

Andrew to persist with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

Martin to continue cataloguing buildings of interest in the Parish

John to send the more detailed maps via Dropbox to enable marking of trees, hedges, buildings, open spaces

Village Whatsapp group to be asked what wildlife has been seen in gardens – birds, mammals, bats but not common species like badgers or rabbits. Photographs of wildlife will be useful to include in the Plan.

Next Meeting

Group to meet without John 21st October 2021

Full Group meeting 18th November 2021.

A short walk was taken to view the Village Green up to the gates of the Fishponds Community Park and John explained how to score various features. The meeting was then abandoned at 12.30 p.m.

Monks Kirby Neighbourhood Plan

Environment Theme Group

Meeting held on 26th October 2021

Notes

Present:

Martin Yerbury, Helen Varah, Barbara Dent, Tim Washington

Declarations of interest. None declared

Apologies: Pat Race, Andrew Gibbons, Sue Postlethwaite, Jane Wright

Buildings

Martin explained his list of buildings within the Parish. If photographs are used in the final document then permissions may be necessary.

Views

Helen stated the information was mainly taken from the 2015 Parish Plan and very little has been significantly altered.

Ref: page 96 – Important landscaping

Page 110 – Key views and vistas

Tim thought he may still have the original electronic copy of the Parish Plan 2015

Scoring

Helen agreed to do an initial score of the points raised in the “Local green and open spaces and environmentally significant sites” created by Andrew, together with the points on trees and hedges and land, Helen will then circulate to all the Group for comments and suggestions to be returned **by 4th November**. The scoring will then be passed on to John Martin to do an initial draft of the Environment Chapter. The Group talked through the scoring criteria for St Edith’s Church and Churchyard as an example on the inventory.

Barbara agreed to mark the open/green spaces sites on the map and forward to Martin to create an electronic version.

Tim to contact John Martin to check if he will be able to write the first draft by November 18th.

Barbara to ask Neil Wright if he will be willing to look over the list of buildings in the Parish and make comments, further suggestions or corrections and to suggest an archetype e.g. very old buildings, old, medium age, new and very new.

Barbara to ask Sue for her list of trees and hedges and Pat for his land list for scoring. It is hoped that the scoring and the group consultation can be completed by 4th November.

Sustainability Policy

Tim suggested that it will be sufficient for Gary Kirk, Martin Yerbury, Barbara Dent and himself to have a meeting to formulate a policy.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Next meeting **18th November 2021 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.**

Monks Kirby Neighbourhood Plan

Environment Theme Group

Meeting held on 18th November 2021

Notes

Present:

John Martin, Jane Wright, Martin Yerbury, Barbara Dent, Tim Washington, Pat Race, Andrew Gibbons

Apologies: Helen Varah, Sue Postlethwaite, Nick Donnelly

Declarations of interest. None declared

Pat acknowledged the progress made and thanked everyone for their contribution

Q & A

Andrew Gibbons – trying to involve WCC and WWT (Ian Jelley). Chris Talbot from WWT has worked with other Parishes, Andrew is continuing to get the two organisations involved. Severn Trent – Wider Communities will fund worthwhile projects to wild the countryside but this will exist outside the confines of the Neighbourhood Plan. Andrew to look at a proposal – not immediately.

John Martin suggested this should be parked for now but to keep it in view. Community action can be updated right up to submission time.

Tim Washington – there is still lots to do and Tim is keen to move on in December.

Housing Chapter is ready.

Sustainability Chapter is nearly ready.

Environmental Chapter critical, help is needed.

Local Green and Open Spaces – all sites are valid candidates. John Martin adjusted scores and explained reasons.

John Martin to write up about bats in the bio-diversity policy. There is more to add to the inventory. Newnham Paddox Park and Gardens and bigger areas – mark an entry for each component but those numbers can be amalgamated for the general description. The land around the Revel School is not part of the Green Belt but regarded by RBC as an important open space.

John will send Andrew an inventory which he can re-score and circulate the complete version. WCC has an interactive map – Green Infrastructure for Warwickshire, John will send the link in an email. The map shows habitat sites and local wildlife sites.

Historic Environment Sites – Barbara had done initial work and asked WCC for the gazetteer and map but no response so far. Barbara to forward the email from Ben Wallace WCC to John to follow up.

Local Heritage Assets – Any buildings identified as important but not listed the owners would have to be contacted to inform them that the Neighbourhood Plan will identify the property as important. Historic England booklet available online and specimen letter to owners. Would need to give 6 weeks for a response.

Trees in Newnham Paddox – Sue Postlethwaite to be contacted.

Views – viewable from public spaces. Helen Varah has made a report but help required with a diagram.

Flood risk – does Monks Kirby remain silent and agree with RBC or create its own policy? John suggested taking this to the Steering Group meeting. Jane Wright and Barbara to map flood risks. Flood risk policy will future proof the Neighbourhood Plan.

Renewable energy – Parish Council is in favour with certain constraints. Examiner is more likely to approve if the approach is positive. Tim will contact Parish Council Chairman regarding a policy.

Actions

John Martin to write up about bats in the bio diversity policy

Andrew Gibbons to identify say 12 sites and number the fields

Martin Yerbury heritage assets plus ridge and furrow

Pat Race and Barbara Dent historical environment

Helen Varah - Views – check with Helen, John needs a short description of what you can see

Jane Wright and Barbara Dent – map flood risk areas

Pat Race – flood risk

Sue Postlethwaite – trees in Newnham Paddock

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Date of next meeting – 9th December 2021 at the home of Pat Race, Fox Close, Millers Lane.

Email Notes Environment Group Meeting 9th December 2021 at Pat Race's House

Dear all -

Good to see you all last night and good progress.

I have updated the word document with the list of views and sightlines, calculated the scores and colour coded it. When we get the tree details from Sue, I think we are there.

Helen - can you check you're happy with the views I've added. This is a cut and paste from the old parish plan so I think it should be OK>. I have had a go at scoring them so could you look at that too, please? (A quick read through the whole thing would be helpful too if you get the chance.)

Martin - as discussed last night, it would be great if you could add the locations to your map with all the numbering. I've attached the ones we were looking at yesterday (noting that some of the positioning was wrong!) if it helps.

Sue - we are just missing the tree / hedgerow data. I've left space at the bottom which can use to add things in. It may be best for you to prepare a list and we can add them and do the scores when we're all together?

Let me know if there are any questions.

Pat



On 7 Dec 2021, at 15:05, Tim washington <Tim.washington@bourton.co.uk> wrote:

Hi All,

Apologies, I won't be able to attend the meeting on Thursday but wondered if things are in good shape for that meeting? I note that Andrew completed his section of inventory (thank you for that) and forwarded on for next input. Has it done the full round and if so, could the latest version be circulated please? I would like a quick look before Thursday, in case I have any comments to make in advance of the meeting.

Are there any other issues which the group may need help with?

Thanks

Tim

On Thu, Nov 25, 2021 at 2:30 PM andrewgibbons19 <andrewgibbons19@btinternet.com> wrote:
Hi all,

I thought it would be useful to give you an update on the action I took from last week's meeting, to update the Inventory of local sites specifically from a wildlife and biodiversity perspective, together with marking-up the plans that Martin sent through below, with any new site areas that I highlight. John has provided me with the Word version of the Inventory and I have now completed the changes, including the amendments we agreed at last week's session.

I evaluated our list against two resources - The Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Green Infrastructure database and the RBC Habitat and Biodiversity Audit carried out in 2017. From this I have identified a number of further sites, classed as 'Potential Wildlife Sites' or 'Distinctive Habitats' in MK Parish. In total there are now 20 sites on our Inventory and maps. There were no SSSI sites; RIGS (Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Site); LNRs (Local Nature Reserves) or LWSs (Local Wildlife Site) currently identified in our Parish.

In terms of the process, there are a number of other steps needed to further refine the Inventory and Site Maps and we agreed that the best way to do this would be to hand the documents over to the next responsible person in a sort of relay race. So next-up is Pat, (Historical Environment Sites), then to Sue (significant trees) and finally to Martin (local Heritage assets). Doing it this way avoids confusion over multiple people simultaneously trying to make updates. As a means of tracking who's done what on the Inventory, I would suggest that each person adds their initials to the file name of the Word document once they've completed their changes and before sending it to the next person - at the moment it's showing as JM-AG.

Jane - I still need to meet-up with you, to get some of your detailed local wildlife knowledge and to cross-check the sites I've identified, but I thought it best to get the process moving and then if we identify any further wildlife site updates, we can take those to the meeting on the 9th - hope that's OK.

The idea is to have all inputs completed in time for our next meeting (without John) at Pat's house on the 9th December. Pat - not sure if it's possible, but it would be very helpful if we could view the Inventory and Maps on a projector for discussion, rather than having everyone try to print off their own copies.....is that possible do you think? The Word document won't format for printing onto A4 and it would mean we could make the changes on the fly at the meeting to speed things up a bit.

Once we've completed that step, we'll need to send everything through to John before Christmas, so that he can take our input and use it to draft the Environment Chapter for review at our next meeting January 13th.

Think that's it for now - I will send the documents through to Pat separately.

Cheers, Andrew