

Grasby, Searby cum Owmbly Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**Meeting Number:** 37**Date:** 30th April 2025**Location:** Grasby Village Hall**Time:** 19:00

Attendees: Chris Mead (Chairman)
 Janet Brown (Treasurer)
 Rob Bennett
 Julie Turnbull
 Tim Phipps
 Steve Riley (Secretary)

Apologies: Cllr Peter Morris
 Cllr Tom Smith
 Mark Palmer
 Mike Downing

Agenda: 1. Outstanding actions from previous meetings (Steve)
 2. Progress since last meeting (Chris)
 3. Community engagement (All)
 4. Next steps for neighbourhood plan (Chris)
 5. Actions arising and next meeting (Steve)

Major Points of Discussion

Item	Description	Action
1. <u>Actions from last meeting</u>		
34.5	Register a complaint to Locality regarding the poor performance of AECOM during the production of the Site Assessment. CM to progress. Ongoing . To be registered on the 2024/25 grant feedback form to Locality.	CM 34.5
35.4	Tim and Mark will email the members of the Searby cum Owmbly Parish Meeting regarding support for the playground in Searby. Ongoing . An email has been sent and the action will remain open until the end today (30 th April).	TP / MP 35.4
35.5	A 2024/25 grant report is required to be sent to Locality by 14 th April. It is projected that all the allocated fund has been used. Closed . Sent and accepted.	
36.1	Chris distributed the latest, complete version (V9) of the Neighbourhood Plan to all group members earlier today. Note: a few minor changes were agreed. Closed .	
36.2	An extraordinary meeting of the Grasby Parish Council needs to be arranged to discuss the actions arising from the 'Community Aspirations' annex of the Neighbourhood Plan. Closed . Meeting held 30 th April. Formal minutes to be produced and referenced in the plan prior to submission to WLDC.	
36.3	Regulation 14 requires a mandatory 6 week consultation period with all residents of the parishes regarding the final pre-submission draft version of the Neighbourhood Plan. Ongoing . See 2.1.	All 36.3
36.4 & 36.5	A public meeting to consult with the community on the site allocations process and decisions made was held on 23 rd April 2025 at 6pm in the Village Hall. Closed . See 3.1.	
36.6	A potential solution to the acquisition of the land in Searby for the prescribed purpose of 'community amenity' would be to agree a long-term lease, say 99 or 999 years, from the landowner to Grasby Parish Council. Ongoing . A draft modern lease agreement template was sent to Chris. Tim is considering the next steps.	TP 36.6
36.7	The landowner of the Searby site recently enquired on allocating this land as a 'green space'. Chris will seek to understand the repercussions on the provision of community amenities should this be perused. Ongoing .	CM 36.7
36.8	It was felt that merging the Grasby and Searby cum Owmbly parishes under the administration of a single Parish Council may be beneficial, not only in progressing the acquisition of this land, but in the general progression of the community aspirations in the future. Superseded . Action passed to the Grasby Parish Council and Searby cum Owmbly Parish Meeting for discussion on the desirability of such a merger.	
36.9	The steering group activity summary on the parish council website requires an update. Chris and Steve to progress. Ongoing .	CM /SR 36.9

- 36.10 Chris has a picture from the early 1900s of a large village gathering at the bottom of Front Street. We could consider recreating such a gathering as a social event for the community. **Closed.** Mike considering as a possible summer event.

2. Progress since last meeting

- 2.1 **Neighbourhood Plan update:** Chris has spoken to Helen Metcalf and Nev Brown about the latest version of the plan (V9) and the next steps. Helen recommended that this version is forwarded to all landowners in the area for consultation. Nev is to send Chris a list of the statutory consultees the group must engage as part of regulation 14. Chris to progress.

CM 37.1

It was agreed to set the 12th May to the 20th June as the regulation 14 consulting period.

The mechanism for distributing the plan and collating the feedback has yet to be agreed. The following were suggested:

- Publicising the final, pre-submission plan by word of mouth, on social media, on local notice boards, on the parish council website and at the Cross Keys pub.
- Gathering feedback by email, paper and/or electronic forms, and holding a public pop-up event at the village hall.

A zoom call with Helen is to be held at 15:00 on the 7th May. Chris to send out details to those in the group who wish to join.

CM 37.2

- 2.2 **Finances:** It is still unclear when submissions for funding for the current year, 2025/26 will be opened and how much is needed to complete the Neighbourhood Planning exercise.

3. Community engagement

- 3.1 Around 20 residents attended the public meeting to consult on the site allocations process and decisions made by the steering group. This was held on 23rd April 2025 at 6pm in the Village Hall. The following are the main points discussed:

- The Neighbourhood plan allows us to identify what is important to us, how new development can contribute to the needs of the community and provide some clarity about the future development of our villages and surroundings.
- Irrespective of the plan, housing development will continue in Grasby (on average one new house is built every year in the village). The Neighbourhood Plan provides an opportunity for the community to agree on the most appropriate sites for development. Note: this does not restrict landowners' from making planning applications for areas outside the agreed sites, but it's unlikely such applications will gain the support of the Parish Council.
- During a 'Call for Sites' last year, 8 landowners submitted interest; 2 were for 'no building' development and 6 for potential sites for new housing. All sites were subjected to an independent review by AECOM, a government appointed consultancy.
- All 6 of the potential development sites were considered by AECOM to be viable with caveats. Subsequently, 3 of the 6 sites were chosen for support by the steering group after a period of community consultation and applying the criteria detailed in the 'Housing Allocation, Process and Decisions' document (on the Parish Council website).
- The Neighbourhood Plan is currently in draft form prior to submission to West Lindsey District Council (WLDC). There will be a mandatory minimum 6 weeks period for residents to comment on the draft plan under section 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. This will start in May. WLDC will then perform due diligence on the document policies prior to holding a referendum of all residents on whether to adopt the plan or not (expected to be held by the end of the year).

The general feedback from the meeting was very positive and supportive of the group's efforts so far.

4. Next steps for neighbourhood plan

- 4.1 The following steps are proposed:
- Issue the full, pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan to Nev Brown (by 12th May).
 - Complete the SEA Screening report and submit to Nev with the plan (as above).
 - Engage in the statutory consultations as part of regulation 14 (once list received from Nev).

5. Actions arising and next meeting

The actions of this meeting were agreed by all those involved.

The next steering group meeting is to be held at 19:00 in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 14th May.