

**Minutes of the Meeting of Hellesdon Neighbourhood Plan Working Group  
held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7pm  
in The Council Chamber, Diamond Jubilee Lodge**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr S. Gurney (Chairman)  
Cllr B. Johnson  
Cllr R. Sear

Cllr R. Forder  
Mrs B. Knowles

**In attendance:** Mrs F. LeBon (Clerk)

Cllr Gurney opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed all in attendance. It was noted that this meeting was called to consider the consultation from South Norfolk and Broadland Councils on the proposed District wide Design Code.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Barker and Cllr Douglass.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

**3. To Agree Minutes of the Meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

The draft minutes had been previously circulated and were **AGREED**.

**4. To Consider Response to Broadland Council's Consultation on Design Code**

Cllr Gurney reported that an email had been sent from Broadland Council clarifying that if a Parish is developing or has already produced a Neighbourhood Plan, which includes its own Design Guide/Code, then the District-wide Design Code will seek to complement the local document.

The vision for the proposed design code was discussed. Hellesdon forms part of the 'urban fringe' which is referred to in the singular. All other areas – market towns, service centres, villages and dispersed settlements which are all referred to in the plural. The urban fringe suggests that there is a singular settlement, whereas it actually consists of several sovereign parishes. The terminology should reflect the plural, such as 'parishes comprising the Norwich Urban Fringe'.

The map provided was discussed and concerns were raised about the quality of the map.

Settlements such as Caistor St Edmund are emphasised on the map suggesting that it forms either part of the urban fringe or a local service centre, when in reality it is neither.

There is no marker for Old Catton in the map, despite the fact that this settlement is referenced in the 'key opportunities' section for the urban fringe.

The map is unclear on the settlement of Rackheath. This is a darker green area, however there is lighter green between Rackheath and Norwich. Does Rackheath and the area to the south west of it comprise the urban fringe?

It was also queried whether Thorpe Marriot should form part of the urban fringe.

Approved.....

Date.....

The title of Market Towns and Key Service Centres was misleading, as market towns in themselves are key service centres, but key service centres not necessarily market towns. It was queried whether Hellesdon was not a key service centre in its own right.

The status of Wroxham was queried as a key service centre as most of the service provision is in Hoveton.

There were opportunities listed under key service centres which the working group thought were relevant to Hellesdon, but not listed under the urban fringe. These were:

- 1) Views and visual impact (particularly with regards to any heritage features or local landmarks eg: windmills/churches).
- 2) Opportunity to provide new green/open space (particularly when lacking existing provision).
- 3) Reinforcing status/identity of towns (eg: signs, use of colour, white marker stones).

There was also a key issue listed under medium and large villages, which was relevant to the urban fringe category. This was 'Safety/attractiveness of pedestrian and active travel routes'.

The Clerk is to bring together these comments in a response to Broadland Council and circulate to the committee prior to sending.

**5. Date and Time of Next meetings**

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Approved.....

Date.....