**NOTES OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING (NP) SEMINAR ORGANISED FOR THE PARISH FORUM BY HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BC (HBBC) ON 27/10/15-Attended by Alan Davies.**

**1.Mike Hall, Leader HBBC (and Elected Member for Burbage)**

MH explained that the purpose of the event was to gain a national perspective of NP and understand the support that was available.There was also an opportunity to understand Market Bosworth’s experience in developing it’s NP.A NP helps to get development in the right areas with the right services.

**2.NP and the role of HBBC-Andy Killip, Policy Planning Manager, HBBC.**

AK explained the Council’s overall local plan framework-Core Strategy (2009); Area Plans (Hinckley, Earl Shilton and Barwell); Site Allocations and Development Management Policies.A NP must conform to these policies, although there can be some differences.A Parish Council has to justify the need for a NP and there needs to be a logical boundary e.g.Parish boundary.A NP also has to comply with rules and regulations e.g. consultation; involvement of statutory consultees (e.g. Councils; Government agencies; other statutory bodies); EU regulations (e.g. sustainability; habitat).HBBC will carry out a validation check of a draft NP, and the plan goes to an independent examiner who produces a report on it.If the report is OK there has to be a local referendum (conducted and paid for by HBBC using the electoral register), and approval is based on a simple majority of those voting. An adopted plan can be used to help determine planning applications and resist inappropriate development.NP is a resource intensive exercise, but a NP does carry considerable weight when dealing with proposed development, particularly inappropriate development.HBBC can provide support for NP-a point of contact; information sources; assistance with consultation; checks.

**MY COMMENT-THIS IS A VERY STRUCTURED PROCESS, CURRENTLY WELL SUPPORTED BY HBBC.**

**3.Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Plan-John Wasteney, Chair MB Parish Council; John Pope, Chair MB Neighbourhood Forum.**

MB started the NP planning process 4 years ago.Only 25% of Parish Councillors wanted to be involved in the process so other people were recruited to help.Public consultation events were held during 2013, and mainly older people were engaged by this.Data collection also took place during 2013.The draft plan went through many iterations(about 30!), and the final draft of the plan received over 600 responses.Most responses were constructive, and included issues such as development areas, mobile phone reception and broadband.All responses were analysed and responded to.The plan was subject to a referendum on 21/7/15, and received 88% support (22.6% turnout).The plan was formally adopted in September 2015.The intention is to review the plan every 5 years.The plan aims to maintain the character of a small, historic market town.The neighbourhood forum (a sub-committee of the Parish Council) is responsible for delivery and monitoring.The plan cost about £15,000 to develop over the 4 year period, and it seems most of this was grant funded.

**MY COMMENT-A RESOURCE INTENSIVE AND TIME CONSUMING PROCESS, WHICH CAN CARRY CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT WHEN DEALING WITH PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT.COST AND CAPACITY REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE WEIGHED CAREFULLY AGAINST LIKELY BENEFITS.**

**4.NP-A national perspective.Johnathan Green.Policy advisor.DCLG.**

By October 2015 there had been 107 successful referendums, and 1,600 communities are involved with NP’s.About 90% of designated areas follow Parish boundaries.To date 230 NP’s have been submitted for examination.Of these around 25% have required a hearing.135 NP’s have so far passed examination.The average NP includes around 20 policies.The average cost of a plan is £13,758.There is £22.5m nationally available to support NP’S, and all groups can apply for up to £8,000.(see-www.mycommunity.org.uk for further information)

**MY COMMENT-NP IS CURRENTLY A PRIORITY AREA FOR THE GOVERNMENT, AND COMMUNITIES ARE BEING ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE BY FINANCIAL INCENTIVES.SUSTAINABILITY IN THE LONGER TERM IS LESS CLEAR.**

**5.Neighbourhood Planning.Support with consultation and engagement.John Preston.Rural Community Council.**

Consultation is a statutory requirement in the NP process.The aim is to secure evidence; ensure understanding; and obtain buy in and support.There is a need to consult the local community; businesses; service providers and landowners and developers.It can take considerable time and it is essential to feedback to outcome of any consultation exercise.The Rural Community Council can help.

**MY COMMENT-CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS ARE SIGNIFICANT AND SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED.**

Alan Davies

Twycross Parish Councillor.

October 2015.