

Meeting with Tim Hill and Ian MacKay.

Stephen and I met with Tim and Ian at their Leeds office on 26th August. It was a slightly disappointing meeting following a previous discussion with Ian which suggested that the Council were embarking on a new programme of providing additional support to Neighbourhood Planning teams in pursuance of completed Plans. Costs to be paid to the Council in respect of the additional support. The commercialisation thinking was at an early stage, though one town had already been selected and was looking to become an important pilot.

In terms of Walton – the verdict was that good work had been progressed and that the ‘Intentions’ document looked positive. They were particularly impressed with our village consultation efforts.

Our next piece of work will be around turning the intentions into the Plan and there looked to be significant further work to be done in respect of,

- More detailed comment and stronger specificity in support of our policies.
- A more planning centric language in respect of policies.
- The addition of particular themed additional sections i.e. conditions report; sustainability appraisal etc.
- Greater evidence to support policies.

We listened carefully to some particular examples (not from our work) and it was clear that they were keen to see a significantly higher level of detail than we had provided to date.

We discussed further Council support – and Ian was clear that they can and will provide us with nil cost support – and they believe that they will also offer so possible ‘add ons’ which would cost.

We spoke about next steps and Ian readily agreed to a one-day workshop – led by him, at an early stage, which would specifically focus on ‘filling the gaps’ where our policies might be better supported. *It was a good offer*, it will promulgate further work, it will strengthen our policies, it will identify any further reports that might be necessary and it will beef up, support and fool proof the content of the actual Plan. They will also help us with some aspects of the follow up work.

They will not write our report for us.

They will be pleased to run the workshop within the next few weeks and asked that I return soon to them with possible dates and a terms of reference for the Workshop.

Brodie Clark

26/08/16