Fressingfield Neighbourhood Development Plan ( NDP) Review Steering Group DRAFT Minutes of Meeting

1st July 2025 : 7.00-8:30 p.m.

Sancroft Hall

Attendees: Sheena McCallum, (SM) Hilary Day, ( HD) Cindy Engel, (CE) Di Warne (DW), John Kelsall, (JK) Chris Mee ( CM) Sharon Lytton, ( SL) Nick Stolls (NS)

Planning Consultant: Andrea Long ( AL)

Apologies: Sharon Wilson (SW)

1. Welcome: JK welcomed the group.
2. Apologies for absence: Sharon Wilson

Declarations of interest: None

Lobbying: Two papers received from the Castros were noted.

1. To resolve minutes of the last meeting were correct - agreed. No matters arising.
2. Housing Survey update : CE explained she had reduced the amount of data detail to provide a snapshot to put on social media with links to the full report. SL queried if the lobbying paper had been helpful. CE observed it hadn’t added anything to the snapshot. ACTION CE to circulate content of social media post to the group before publishing.
3. Reply from Anglian Water: DW explained the reply from Anglian Water had been received at close of business on 1st July and circulated to the group an hour before the meeting commenced. It was observed that not all members of the group had time to digest the contents. Discussion focused on the fact that Anglian Water (AW) had not commented specifically on all sites put forward by landowners. It was noted that AW have been monitoring and measuring flow since remedial action to address overflow/flooding had been put in place. CE reported she had met with Mid Suffolk Resilience Officer who had advised residents can request the Council to investigate if regular flooding occurs.

ACTIONS DW to include AW response on next agenda. AL to liaise with AW when dealing with individual site assessments for specific feedback. JK to investigate historic incidents of flooding/spillage on Low Road prior to 2017. AL to submit request to MSDC to investigate flooding.

1. Infrastructure draft: AL took the group through the work done to date. Concerns by survey respondents around infrastructure echoed those of the group. AL explained there were two papers on Infrastructure: the revised chapter from the original plan plus a draft factual paper. This paper is driven by Policy Fres3 which identifies the breadth of infrastructure to be in place to support development. AL advised these are not equal in planning law and planners will apply different weight accordingly. The paper contains factual information but no interpretive commentary on each aspect. The group noted that some responses from providers were received and others were still to be received and added. It was noted that the section on green infrastructure had detail on allotments the group felt to be inaccurate. ACTION AL to amend.

When all responses are received this factual paper will be published. AL took the group through proposed revisions to the infrastructure chapter. It was noted that Babergh and Mid Suffolk have done work on strategic infrastructure which was not in place for the original NDP. This will be referenced in the review and will serve as an umbrella for our chapter to work with.

There was discussion about how Fressingfield will feature in MSDC’s revised settlement hierarchy. It was noted that the parish is well served with community facilities and that some services are near capacity and could be unable to manage further development. The Parish Council will comment as necessary on the ranking allocated when this is known and the response window opens.

AL reminded the group the question planners ask is whether new development with proper mitigation to prevent adding to a problem will make that problem worse . It was noted that FRES3, FRES4 and FRES5 remained strong and didn’t need amending. Biodiversity will be reviewed in Section 6 and a separate biodiversity and green spaces policy will be included. Specific detail will be included on flooding. Highways will be reviewed in FRES13. JK thanked AL for her work on this on behalf of the group.

1. Site Assessment Template. AL presented the proposed template to the group. This is based on national guidelines. Specific locations will appear in words and will use what3words. AL will contact each landowner as part of the assessment. Evidence will be presented in traffic light format. ACTION AL to complete assessments.
2. Dates of next meetings: 5th August at 7p.m. ZOOM meeting and 2nd September at 7p.m. Sancroft Hall.
3. A.O.B. None.
4. Meeting concluded 8:30 p.m.