

Committee	FULL COUNCIL
Date	16th September 2019
Agenda Item	18

Neighbourhood Plan feasibility

It has been suggested that Halstead should consider developing a Neighbourhood Plan as a way of protecting the town against unwanted development.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a task not to be undertaken lightly, which will involve considerable expense, and a great deal of work for the Council staff, members and residents. It is our understanding that the task must be undertaken with advice and support and eventually approval from the planning authority at BDC, and must include real engagement with the community.

The Council would need to produce an evidence base, which is made up of data and analysis of facts about Halstead, in order to paint a generalised picture of the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the area. This information would include population, environment, employment, transport links and strategic context, and would also take into account evidence provided by the local plan (BDC), and other bodies.

It would also need to publicise in the community the proposal to develop a local neighbourhood plan, including awareness-raising with all stakeholders, an example of which could include SMEs, landowners, project groups/trusts, health and social care organisations, and schools.

Recommendation: that HTC agrees to carry out further research into the work involved in creating a Neighbourhood Plan.



Sarah Greateorex Town Clerk

