

## Ravensthorpe Village Design Statement (VDS) Update Group

### Open Meeting in Village Hall, 22 October 2014

**Present:** Yvonne Childs, Nick Ellison, Cliff Giles, Di Hayes, Richard Marsh, Viv & Dave Rees, Mary Worthington

**Apologies:** Mike Cobbe, Chris Freeman, Ray Gardner, Kay Lee, Margaret Lewis, John Mott, Ray Wadlow.

RM welcomed everyone who had volunteered to help with the project.

NE explained the **background** to the project, why it is being done, the progress so far and outlined the anticipated steps to completion. A copy of the notes will be placed on the village website by RM.

Discussion took place on why a VDS update has been considered to be a higher priority at present than starting a completely new Neighbourhood Plan. Existing VDS covers Ravensthorpe village, not Coton or Teeton. and it is proposed this remains the case for the update, for simplicity, speed of completion and ease of adoption at DDC. A Neighbourhood Plan could always be done later if there was enough support for it but would take a lot of time and resources.

VR suggested that we keep the rest of the village up to date with progress via as many get-togethers as possible (eg fireworks evening, coffee mornings, children school meeting group etc) as well as the newsletter, to involve as wide a spread of the village community as possible. Agreed this **All to circulate any suggestions they have for suitable**.

DH suggested drawing up a communications strategy and agreed to **circulate an outline for this to the group**.

General agreement that additional volunteers should continue to be encouraged to join the group.

YC asked if next meeting could be scheduled a little later in the evening if possible?

RM outlined the **next steps** which was ask for volunteers to take on a section each and transfer the current text content into the equivalent section of a template document (laid out using the Spratton VDS as a good recent example) which will form the initial working document.

Once the existing material is laid out in the updated format, any statements needing updating can be highlighted. From this exercise the local information that needs to be gathered (in order to get the VDS factually up to date, clear and compliant with NPPF and Local plan) identified.

Volunteers took away the following sections to review:

*Village Context:* DR; *Landscape Setting:* YC; *Settlement Patterns & Character:* RM; *Community & Commercial facilities:* VR; *Buildings:* MW; *Highways & Infrastructure:* DH; *Environment Conservation & Planning:* CG ; *Intro & Conclusions :* NE.

Each took a pack comprising instructions, 1999 Ravensthorpe VDS, Spratton VDS & template for their section, with a view to **returning sections to RM by 19 Nov** for compilation into a full discussion document for a meeting the following week (**Venue & time TBC by RM**).

All happy to share by e-mail & use Word/PDF format at present, but this is not a requirement. NB CG's e-mail is not working at present, so comms need to be personal / written/ telephone etc until this is sorted out.

**Next meeting:** last week in November: RM to confirm date/time/venue