

NP4Yaxham report to Parish Council 16th March 2017

As you know from the Newsletter delivered this week, the independent Examiner came to Yaxham on 21st February and his 52 page report is back and overwhelmingly positive. He has suggested some changes in wording in some of the policies but we have a Plan endorsing the small and rural nature of the parish. His modification to the Plan reflects the wish of the community to retain the distinct separation from both Dereham and Mattishall and between the settlements. So he has recommended our Plan going forward to Referendum. In his report the Examiner noted that it was a “substantial undertaking for a small parish like Yaxham”.

The Referendum will take place on 4th May, the same day as the County Council elections. Every vote is therefore important if you support the Neighbourhood Plan. With a majority voting in favour, the Yaxham Neighbourhood Plan will be “made” by Breckland Council and the policies in the Plan become a very significant part of the planning process when considering any development proposals in Yaxham in the future.

Through a great deal of effort from the WG and ward councillor Paul Claussen as well as great support from residents at these meetings, we have won the battle of the LSC status, and the Lanpro 25 home application was refused.

However, there is still a long war ahead. If Breckland don't retain their 5 year housing land supply, then Yaxham will become fair game once again although the Neighbourhood Plan will now become a very material consideration. Lanpro have not purchased 60 acres in the middle of the village to farm the land – they are land developers - pure and simple. The parish had a very close call with the LSC debate and if we were to be a Local Service Centre and there would be a real risk that developers would be set to start on the fields on the Norwich Road.

Working Group members have taken days off work to attend Breckland meetings when possible and yesterday Ian and I attended a LPWG meeting and we will attend again tomorrow when they discuss PD05A – Rural Settlement policy. We need to ensure the Minutes and discussion at these meetings meet the expectations of the Neighbourhood Plan.

We will be present next Tuesday just to see the Plan over the last hurdle. Leader of the Council William Nunn has given the Plan his blessing, Breckland members and planners yesterday passed on their congratulations on the positive Examiners Report so all is set to proceed to the Referendum on 4th May.

The Inspector noted in his report the “close community involvement” and councillors – the village now expects its parish council to properly carry the work forward.

Lastly, the draft Local Plan is being presented to Breckland Councillors on 27th March LPWG meeting – which is closed to the public. We'll be writing to Breckland to demand that the public be able to attend and watch just what is being said.

Maggie Oechsle, Chairman