**Notes of Neighbourhood Plan Meeting held on Tuesday 26th March 2019**

Attendance: K Marquis (Chair), Cllr A. Bolton, J. Millett, Cllr Mrs S. Nunn, P. Thorpe, Cllr T. Fisher,

Mrs J. Lofthouse, Mrs C. Whittle, Cllr J. Chapman

1. KM welcomed everyone to the March meeting

2. Apologies received from Mrs S. Jenkins. KM explained that Kathryn Jukes was not requested to attend as insufficient time had been available to study the response from CoYC following the meeting held on 19th March 2019 between Group Members and Officers.

3. KM explained the reason that the planned pre-submission consultation arranged to take place between 1st March and 12th April had had to be postponed. Despite the email advice on previous occasions from CoYC that reports were required to determine screening of the NP against Strategic Environment Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment it was not appreciated that officers at CoYC were unable to compile the reports as is the normal practice with most Local Authorities. KM had been advised that if the consultation went ahead then it would need to be repeated once the aforementioned reports were assessed. KM advised that he had spoken to the printer and the versions of the plan already printed could be adapted to include any alterations by sticking amendments over the relevant pages. The leaflet for Outreach would, however, need to be reprinted as the costs of providing adhesive stickers would outweigh the cost of reprint. At the Strensall with Towthorpe PC meeting held on 26th February, councillors approved the Steering Group request to allow Kathryn Jukes to arrange her colleague, Mike Dando, to compile the reports at a quoted cost of c£2,000.00.

4. KM reported on the meeting attended by Cllr Chapman, Kathryn Jukes and himself on 19th March with Alison Cooke, Anna Pawson and Nadine Rolls. AC explained the Local Plan, submitted to the Planning Inspector in May 2018, had included a reduction in the number of units to be built on the QE Barracks site from 578 to 500 and a larger amount of Open Space provided on the site together with a substantial boundary fence between the site and Strensall Common SSSI. This amendment had been made to address concerns from Natural England that the development would encourage more visits to the SSSI.

 However, when the Habitat Regulations were released in May 2018, Natural England still had concerns about the effect of large developments adjacent to the SSSI and it was agreed that a Visitor Survey be carried out. The survey report concluded that the developments at Queen Elizabeth Barracks and Howard Road would result in a 24% increase in visitor numbers which was not acceptable as much of the damage taking place currently on the SSSI was attributed to irresponsible dog owners allowing their pets to run wild and there had been instances of sheep worrying as well as trampling of species of flora. CoYC held a meeting of the Local Plan Working Group on 23rd February 2019 where it was accepted from the report that the two sites should be taken out of the plan. In addition, the revised Housing Need figures recently released reduced the plan figure of 867 to 790 but the higher number was retained in order to cope with the reduction in the development sites at Strensall. The report was accepted by the LPWG and by CoYC Executive on 7th March 2019. Members of the group considered the report to be an excellent one which reflected their concerns about visitors to the SSSI.

 Coincidently an announcement was made by the Defence Secretary that the closure date for Queen Elizabeth Barracks and Towthorpe Lines would be put back to 2024. It is also believed that the Defence Infrastructure Organisation are expected to appeal the CoYC decision to remove the two sites.

 Discussions then took place about the effect of the withdrawal of the sites on the current version of the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that their suggested amendments would be passed to the steering group members in time for tonight’s meeting. In the event the information was received too late to be studied in advance of the meeting and KM requested that members compare the current version with the amendments supplied and pass any comments to KM as soon as possible. JL had expressed concerns about the wish list associated with the QEB development and KM said that this had been raised and CoYC had suggested incorporating those items in the Community Action section.

 KM advised Cllr Nunn that a presence at Strensall Carnival on 22nd June 2019 would now be required to update residents on the current progress of the Neighbourhood Plan.

 Discussion took place between members about the effects of the decision to withdraw the MoD sites from the Local Plan especially the situation with Robert Wilkinson Academy both in capacity and traffic problems in the school area.

 Date of next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 23rd April 2019.

 Meeting closed at 20.15.