**BARNHAM PARISH COUNCIL - EXTRAORDINARY MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER 2020 – 7PM – USING “ZOOM”**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** J. Bauer, M. Hawthorne, I. Heading, P. Keast, C. Merrifield, Mrs. S. Watson, E. Wyer (Chair). Mrs. C. Dowson – Clerk. One member of the public: A. Blenkiron

**Apologies** received from County Councillor Mrs. J. Spicer and District Councillor A. Smith

The Chairman asked all parish councillors to declare any interests or request dispensations. None were made (although M. Hawthorne noted that he is an employee of Euston Estate). The Chairman explained that the purpose of the meeting was to consider the response to West Suffolk Local Plan Consultation. The following points were agreed by all members present:

**Part 1 Vision and Objectives -** Proposed new hierarchy was acceptable. Barnham should remain in the new category of a Type A Village. Any further development should include a provision for affordable housing.

**Which of the 4 distribution options is preferred**:

Option 1 : Focus growth on new settlement(s) which would be of a sufficient scale to support new community infrastructure and employment.

Option 2 : Focus development in the towns and key service centres where infrastructure and environmental constraints allow.

Option 3 : Focus growth on the towns, key service centres and local service centres through urban extensions and infilling where infrastructure and environmental constraints allow.

Option 4 : Disperse development around the district allocating sites across towns, service centres and villages to allow them to grow where infrastructure and environmental constraints allow.

The preferred order was:

1. Option 4

2. Option 3

3. Option 2

4. Option 1

**Part 2**

1. Issues. No comment needed.

**Part 3 Barnham**

Development in Barnham, included in the plan, has been deferred due to ecological and planning constraints. It was agreed that further development is needed but in order to enable this the following had to be addressed;

1. Realignment of settlement boundary

It was agreed that the boundary should be re-aligned as follows to include three possible development sites:

* + From Rose Cottage, Euston Road (east of the village) to include the conservation area and land south of Euston Rd, parallel to the conservation area.
	+ St. Martins Meadow.
	+ Existing allotment area (west end of village adjacent to the A134).
	+ The attached map highlights these areas

Areas on the border of the boundary (by the second-hand car site and Barnham camp) were dismissed as this would fragment the village.

1. Relaxation of SPA Buffer restrictions. (Barnham is in the 1500m Stone Curlew buffer zone). It was agreed to ask for a re-assessment regarding buffer zone conditions as a detrimental impact due to development could be negligible and the current restrictions were interpreted in a similar fashion to development within the SPA.

Re-establish Thetford southern bypass discussions. It was agreed that there was a need for the Thetford southern bypass. The preferred option from the original study in 2001 was for a link across Barnham Common to the Sainsburys roundabout. This was still considered to be the best option. The requirement for the bypass would be included in the response.

Parish Councillor’s submissions for inclusion. The Chair thanked Matthew Hawthorne and Peter Keast for their comments. They were valuable and salient points which could be included in the later stages of the consultation.

Euston Estate. Andrew Blenkiron reassured the meeting that there would be only limited development on any Euston site and the character of the village would be respected.

Meeting closed 7.53pm.

Attachment : map of Barnham with possible development areas sketched in red.