**Harworth & Bircotes Neighbourhood Plan**

**23 July 2014**

Attendees

 Stuart Aston – Harworth Estates

Gill Proctor -

Claire Walker -

Anita Smith – Town Council/local resident

June Evans – Town Council/local resident

Natalie Cockrell Bassetlaw District Council

Steve Bowman – Town Clerk

Adam Buston -

Sandra James - Town Council/local resident

Brian Letherland -Town Council/local resident

Hannah Mexcon – Harworth Estates

Adan Buxton - Harworth Estates

Janet Flyn - Town Council/local resident

Gerold Connor – Bassetlaw District Council

Avey Peakcocks- Nottinghamshire County Council

Ruth Clayton – Fire Service

**Meeting to discuss Potential Options for development on the former colliery site.**

The plans prepared for discussion were developed by Spawforths on the behalf of Harworth Estates these designs have been based upon the worked that the Harworth and Bircote neighbourhood plan group commissioned Urban forward to do which originated from the initial consultation with the community in 2013.

* Stuart Ahston (SA) from Harworth Estates introduced how the company Harworth Estates and UK Coal are now operating as two separate businesses. With Harworth Estates holding all the former colliery land. He also explained that the headquarters for UK coal at Harworth park on the Blyth road is now being let out to new business.
* SA - started with explaining how the existing buildings onsite would be demolished over the next couple of months and the shafts of the former colliery would be filled.
* SA – the existing permission on the colliery site that is split into three phases with phase 1 for the Asda (opened in 2011) and the initial 118 houses (developed by Jones Homes) having already started and selling well has been a good start to regenerating some of the former colliery land but phase two of the development for 950 homes still needs to be started and this is envisaged to stay the same and a planning application for this second phase for the reserved matters would be looked at in the next couple of years. The third phase of the development would have been for the employment on central part of the colliery site however, due to the neighbourhood plan and the feedback from the community wanting to see community uses on the site along with housing and then the subsequent report from Urban Forward, Harworth estates devised two new options for phase three of the colliery development.

SA explained that we need to make Harworth and Bircotes an attractive town where people want to live, work and socialise.

**option 1 medium term plan – Key points and considerations**

* The Coal tip (spoil heap 1 on the plan) remains due to the associated cost of the removal of the spoil heap. The temporary methane extraction area would also remain until the company operating on the site has finished extracting the gas.
* The existing road off of Blyth Road will remain and link into Shrewsbury Road and will become an alternative access into Harworth & Bircotes.
* New open space will be provided and the potential to house a new school as part of the development
* An area will be available for community uses such as hotel, community building etc
* Sheltered accommodation for elderly residents next to the town hall
* Bus terminus
* Option 1 would accommodate an additional 500 homes

**Option 2 – long tem plan – Key points and considerations**

* The coal tip and the employment area is to be developed which will accommodate a further 250 houses

**Questions from the group**

1. Does the existing plan for 950 houses change?

SA – NO this will stay the same

1. Does both options include the accommodation for elderly people?

SA – Yes the area behind the town hall will be available for this uses.

1. The demolition of the tower is key in moving the development and the town forward

SA – the tower will need to be removed to make the whole area more attractive to both a developer wanting to build here and to local residents.

1. Will the Town Council be able to take over the ownership of Droversdale wood as this is an asset to the community and it needs improving?

SA – There is the opportunity for this to happen

1. How do we attract house builders to Harworth and Bircotes?

SA- Its difficult and we need to improve the assets that we already have and market the area. An example of how things have been done in Waverly was given.

1. Do people want to come and live here?

Group discussion on how the area can be made more attractive and about more employment being located to the South of Harworth and the excellent road connectivity.

1. We need to ensure our services such as the fire and police service (representative from the fire service and police are on the group) can cope with the additional houses.

The group agreed to report back to their services the discussion and potential of additional housing in the area.

The whole group voted that they would like to present the options to the community at the next community consultation in September.