

## **National Lottery “Awards for All” application for Neighbourhood Planning Consultation Events.**

A Neighbourhood Plan is a statutory document that must be considered by planners when making decisions about planning applications and determining the scale, make-up and look of development within a given area.

As part of West Lindsey District Council’s Local Plan, Hemswell Cliff has already been earmarked for significant growth, both in terms of business growth (the Food Enterprise Zone) and growth in housing.

By developing a Neighbourhood Plan, Hemswell Cliff residents will have more power to shape this development and growth, including potential locations, infrastructure requirements and what new developments should look like.

In early 2016, the Parish Council, through the Neighbourhood Planning Committee, began the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Hemswell Cliff Parish. The Parish was designated by West Lindsey District Council on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016, and since then, work has begun by the NP committee to engage with the whole of the Parish in order to gather evidence to support the future Neighbourhood Plan, a vital part of the process. So far this has included a survey that was sent to all residents and businesses, as well as face-to-face work at the Big Lunch event and school fete. Unfortunately, the response from parts of the Parish has been poor, and it is hoped that this application will help by providing the funds to create a higher-profile programme of engagement events that appeals to the widest audience possible.

Historically, Hemswell Cliff is rather a disjointed community. The majority of the housing is ex-MOD, which was “sold off” in several lots over a c. 20 year period, and the business community is not well integrated with the village. This legacy has led to a lack of cohesion and community feel which the Neighbourhood Plan and the Neighbourhood Planning process could help to improve.

The most important stage of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan is the consultation stage, and we need views and ideas from local residents on how the area can be improved so these can be incorporated into and delivered via the Plan. This stage holds further importance as the Plan must be supported by local people through a public referendum at the end of the process.

Establishing this sense of community ownership and support will be particularly challenging in our rather disjointed neighbourhood. We are therefore keen to develop a high impact engagement programme that will not only raise the profile of, and community involvement in, the Neighbourhood Planning process but which will also create a legacy of strengthened community cohesion, local identity and aspiration for the future.

With this in mind, we propose to undertake a creative, event-led approach to engagement. This “Awards for All” funding will help by allowing us to commission community engagement specialists to help develop this programme as well as pay for the events and activities themselves. This programme of events will seek to tell the stories of Hemswell Cliff, build understanding of the place and its community, bring people together and, ultimately, identify a shared, community-led vision for the future which will provide the foundation for the subsequent Neighbourhood Plan.

The hope is that this programme will take place over a period of around 8 weeks (towards the end of 2017), with core activities including: a community crest design workshop with local primary school students; a photography trail across the neighbourhood; asset mapping; community planting activities, installations and exhibitions, all culminating in a community celebration event. The

programme will be developed in partnership with local residents, business owners and other core stakeholder groups, including the local youth club.

The core outcomes we are hoping will happen from these events include:

- Strengthened community cohesion and connections
- Strengthened local identity
- Pride in place
- Awareness of local talents and skills
- Increased awareness of and engagement with the Neighbourhood Plan
- Sound basis for community-led visioning and objective setting

Thank you for your attention,

Bethan Clayton

Chairman, Hemswell Cliff Neighbourhood Planning Committee.