

#### 4 Concerning SWAB Neighbourhood Plan

August 2015

##### Request

"1 At the meeting on 10 August, in response to a question from the public asking why the youth survey had been aimed at up to 25 year olds Cllr Muggridge explained that the age range was the sole responsibility of the 14 and 15 year olds who had designed the survey. He demanded an apology for the young people from the person who had raised the question. Subsequently the minutes of the July meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee have been published and these state that *"Two young people have worked to draft the online youth survey. Cllr Muggridge will help them finalise the survey..... The Youth Worker, Emma Edwards, is assisting and the survey will go live before the end of the school term."* Please would Cllr Muggridge explain the apparent disparity between what he told the meeting on 10 August and what these minutes reveal?

2 Following the call for development sites Cllr Muggridge has told us that the identity of these sites is known only by himself and one other councillor from another parish. The selection criteria for judging the suitability of the sites are currently under development. Please can Cllr Muggridge explain why the criteria were not agreed before the call for sites went out, tell us who is involved in developing the criteria, and tell us what safeguards are in place to ensure that the selection criteria are not developed by working backwards to make preferred sites fit the criteria.

3 As this Neighbourhood Plan is supposed to be the product of the people of the SWAB area and the published Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee (Para 12) require the minutes and agendas of both its own meetings and those of the focus groups to be published on the web for the public to see, can Cllr Muggridge please tell us why no minutes of his own steering committee were published after 19 May and they were uploaded on 14 August only after a member of the public requested this. Can he please also tell us why neither the agendas nor the minutes of the focus groups are being published despite this requirement. The public has very little idea what the focus groups have been doing and the failure to publish even the steering committee documents suggests a significant imbalance between the claim that the Plan will be developed by the people and what is in fact happening.

4 Both the June and July minutes of the SWAB Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group state that each of the meetings was inquorate. Please could Cllr Muggridge explain

a. Answered

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b. Whether the public should see the Steering Group meeting in private, not uploading its June and July minutes until August, as well as the fact of two consecutive inquorate meetings, as well as no minutes for any focus group meetings being published, as indications of problems in the Neighbourhood Plan process and in particular as indicative of a failure to truly engage with the public; and

c. Answered

##### Response

None given