To: Loxley Parish Council

13th March 2015

Councillors

**Loxley Neighbourhood Development Plan: feasibility study**

A Loxley NDP has been established comprising Jane Sloan, Peter Morris, Peter Coote and Glynn Jones. The Group was established with the remit of advising the Parish Council on the key issues likely to arise and in light of these the feasibility of developing and successfully delivering a NDP for Loxley.

The Group will continue to progress this work up to the annual community meeting, including identification of an individual willing to lead this initiative from within the community. It is assumed that the annual meeting would be an appropriate point for the process to formally go ‘public’ and launched with a view to attracting more volunteers.

Overleaf we set out some of the key feasibility issues identified. **In summary, there appears to be only one stumbling block to implementation (although it is a major one) and that is to identify an individual willing to lead the process on behalf of the community**. No other issues appear to be insurmountable.

A further report will be issued prior to the annual community meeting towards the end of April.

**Loxley Neighbourhood Development Plan Group**

**Loxley NDP Group - key feasibility issues**

**Does it have to be chaired by the Parish Council?**

In short no – Wellesbourne NDP for example is being chaired by a community volunteer not by the Parish Council. The wider Group does include a couple of Parish Council members as well as a District Councillor. The Group provides feedback but does not report to the Parish Council.

**Who owns the document?**

Ultimately the document needs to be ‘owned’ by the Parish Council as the relevant designated authority which has to be a legal entity and the body which will submit the request for NDP designation.

**How many volunteers are required?**

Although we had around 20 for the Parish Plan, based on experience elsewhere we could get away with a much lower number – possibly between 7-12, though any less than this leads to questions about the extent of community support and commitment. It should not therefore be difficult to come forward with a Group.

Within the 7-12 volunteers there has to be someone willing to lead on the Plan; otherwise progress will be slow and tortuous. This individual will require both enthusiasm and some time to throw at the project – currently this is the major stumbling block to implementation and one the Group will need to continue to work on.

**Other requirements for the Plan?**

A mapping capability is essential.

**Timescales ?**

As a rule of thumb it can be expected to take 2 years from the point of designation to completion of the draft. The Plan would then need to go to a vote, and may need to be amended. However, gives some idea of the extent of commitment required from volunteers.

**Getting started :**

1. **Community engagement**

Typically, there has been some effort with the community to identify the range of issues thought to be important. Analysis of this information has then helped to scope a more detailed survey around a structured questionnaire.

1. **Application for NDP designation**

There are plenty of models available to base our own application on. Discussions suggest that in terms of area it might be sensible to just adopt the parish boundary – this is less likely to get rejected and also it does NOT imply that the whole parish be considered for potential development, as the Plan can identify areas for restraint as well as potential development.

There is no reason for the Parish Council not to start progressing the NDP asap, following discussions with SDC (scheduled for the 9th March), to confirm that Loxley is correctly identified as a Village Service Centre.