

**BlewburyNDP Steering Group**  
**Minutes of meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

**Present:** Ian Bacon (in the chair) IB, Alex Musson AM, Anne Millman (AM), Nick Chancellor (NC), Angela Hoy (AH), Pat Mattimore (PB), Jo Lakeland, Eric Eisenhandler (EE), Mike Marshall (MM), John Ogden (JO), Richard Farrell (RF).

**Apologies:** Dermot Matthias, Gwyn Rees

**Minutes** of the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December were agreed.

**Secretarial:** IB announced that Vanessa Fox had resigned from the steering group and it would be necessary to make provision for minute taking at future meetings. This was not something that could be settled at this meeting. It was suggested that the role might be split in two, and to appoint a minute secretary. It was further agreed that the post might be advertised in the Bulletin and could be paid. In the meantime, RF volunteered to take minutes for this meeting.

**Housing survey:** AM and NC reported that there had been a satisfactory response rate at 62.2%. Residents in occupation for over 11 years accounted for 63% and 54% were owner occupiers with no mortgage. 36% lived in detached properties and 28% believed that their property was valued at over £600,000. 8% were tenants of a housing association. 251 respondents indicated that they were likely to need a new house in the foreseeable future and the greatest barrier to moving was affordability. There were 169 young people living at home.

The open question was answered by 258 respondents and the most frequently mentioned topics were: affordability, a call for no large developments; and infrastructure. 18 specified that there should be no new development at all. In considering where any new development might go, the balance between infill and green field was about even. There was, however, near universal opposition to development south of the A417.

Of Blewbury's attractions, green space was most frequently mentioned at 88%, closely followed by waterways and footpaths at 85% as was the village's landscape setting. Also widely mentioned was the village's sense of community. Sewerage was by far the most frequently mentioned - by 61% of respondents - of problems facing the community, followed by parking at 33% and the bus service.

JO asked whether there might be a weighting problem and there was discussion about the extent to which the survey captured the views of all elements of Blewbury. It was agreed that this needed further investigation and NC said that the data could be weighted to reflect younger elements in the community. In the meantime the PowerPoint presentation would be circulated to all members of the steering group.

**The event on 28<sup>th</sup> February.** After discussion, it was agreed that the event would run from 2pm to 7pm. Dermot would give presentations at 2(ish)pm and 6pm and there would also be a panel drawn from members of the Steering Group. It is also hoped that Brian Duckett would also be in a position to comment on the Landscape Appraisal. There would be time for questions after both presentations and tea and biscuits would be served.

It was agreed to form two teams: a **Content** team comprising Alex, Nick, John, Joe and Anne and a **Delivery/Arrangements team** of Angela, Pat, Ian and Eric. Representatives of both teams will be ready to liaise on contents for a Bulletin entry, the closing date for which is 21<sup>st</sup> January. A refined version of the presentation will go on the website. IB agreed to discuss the event with Dermot on the latter's return.

**Working groups and Plan.** The **Sustainability** group is starting to write its report and the **Living in the village group** plan to have a draft of content available before the end of March. IB said that we could probably start writing up the first chapters of the Plan and it was agreed that it was probably time to form an editorial group to oversee the process.

**Other matters.** It was reported that a developer had informed the Parish Council that he had an option on 15 acres of land off Bessels Way and would be prepared to gift Church Moor to the village if he obtained planning permission for the latter. It was also mentioned that the Vale had told the developer's agent that an Environmental Impact Assessment would be necessary for the land to the west of Woodway.

EE said that he had set up a Google archive on which discussions and other contacts with outside parties could be recorded. He will email details to members of the Steering Group.