

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blewbury Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

held in the Melland Room on Monday 12 May 2014

Present: Ian Bacon, Nick Chancellor, Richard Farrell, Vanessa Fox, Joe Goyder, Angela Hoy, Mike Marshall, Dermot Mathias, Pat Mattimore, Anne Millman, John Ogden, Kally Peigne

Apologies: Jo Lakeland, Andrew Maxted, Alex Musson, Anton Nath , Caroline O'Connell, Gwyn Rees

- 1 **Green May Fair.** Most of the people who came to the stand had already participated in March, and therefore the feedback was similar. AM said that a couple of people were very worried that there would be a great deal of building: more communication is needed, in the information on the website, as the goalposts have been moved: numbers of houses to be built have gone up, but the likelihood of building in Blewbury seems to have reduced.

In the five weeks to May next year, no consultation is possible because of the General Election.

- 2 **Landscape assessment, site allocation.** IB and DM met with Brian and Christina Duckett to discuss a landscape assessment. We agreed that this would be useful to the plan. The survey will not recommend specific sites, but will help us to steer any development into places which would be least detrimental.

Brian Duckett and Anthony Stiff were put forward as possible independent advisers. We discussed whether there was a risk of conflict if we used someone from the village and concluded that we were happy to rely on their professionalism and indeed there was a benefit in using someone who has knowledge of the village. It was agreed that IB and DM would meet BD again to progress. IB,DM

We need to decide whether such a survey should be done before or after the Housing Needs survey.

- 3 **Housing needs.** The draft questionnaire was discussed and in principle approved. AM will now refine the survey in conjunction with RF and NC.

The survey will give us a better understanding of what new development is needed by the village and help us to develop a housing mix policy.

KP suggested talking to estate agents, who know what people are

looking for in the area; also social housing agencies. This should give us a better understanding of what type of housing is being sought by those outside the village.

It was suggested that we should hold a launch event in September for the Housing Needs survey, to get people informed, and warn them that a survey is coming round. This will give us an opportunity to provide an update to the village and serve as a recruitment drive for helpers with the survey.

- 4 **Project Plan Timetable.** £10,000 has been allocated to us by the the Vale , subject to us preparing a project plan. We discussed the timetable for the different subgroups.

DM, IB

Housing needs survey will be ready for processing by end October, result by November.

5. **Living in the Village.** This group has not yet met.

6. **Sustainability appraisal.**

IB, AM and MM attended an ORCC SA training on Monday 24th March at SODC Offices.

IB, MM
and AM

They will undertake a sustainability appraisal as it is good practice and significantly strengthens the NP should any of it be subject to legal challenge in the future.

They will identify characteristics of the neighbourhood and assess the environmental impact of possible developments.

We have to prepare a draft sustainability appraisal, which must be passed by an expert and AM, MM and IB are now working on the initial scoping report for this and will be seeking input from other sub-groups.

DM and IB will prepare a draft project plan for submission to VOWH.

AH proposed a Christmas-themed event for feedback to Village. (We need to discuss whether we have both a September and Christmas event)

7. **Update.** An update to be put in each edition of the Bulletin. Jo L would like to put profiles of the Core Group on the website. NC will do an update for the next edition, due on 14 May.

8. **Date of next meeting: 9 June**