

Blewbury Neighbourhood Development Plan

Notes of a meeting held on Friday 18 October at Fir Trees, London Road

Present: Dermot Mathias, Richard Farrell, Ian Bacon, Angela Hoy, Mike Marshall, Joe Goyder, Vanessa Fox

1. Registration with the Vale. Going ahead. Have to provide OS map, which Elaine will get. We will stick to Parish boundary. RF will produce a statement as to why proposed area is appropriate.

2. Raising Finance. The Vale will make £10,000 available. Costs include professional advice, catering, printing, booking of Village Hall. We can also apply to Locality for support in the form of cash and services. Other sources of finance are also available. Woodcote has spent £12,000 to date.

3. Appointing Advisers. Locality has offered to provide someone on a consultancy basis, to help us get started and make sure that all areas are covered. Woodcote has had good experience dealing with ORCC. It was agreed that **DM** would follow up with them.

There was a discussion on doing a housing needs survey. RF said such a survey was done 3 or 4 years ago, before Cossicle Mead was planned, although it will need to be brought up to date. IB thought that there had been a village consultation at that time. **RF** will talk to Elaine.

There was also a discussion on whether we need external, independent help in order to assess the relative merits of different sites. Drayton appointed an independent adviser. Woodcote did it themselves, evaluating sites against a matrix of their own devising.

IB felt sure that Blewbury would prefer to do its own matrix and study, rather than bring in a professional. **IB** to look at how this was done in Woodcote.

Brian Duckett is an expert on Neighbourhood Plans; IB will talk to him about how we identify suitable sites.

4. Roles and working parties. We discussed what the working parties should comprise and agreed on the following:

- Housing needs
- Site identification, selection criteria and building design
- Living in the village (work, recreation, school, church, transport, sewerage etc)
- Sustainability
- Communications and engagement

DM asked **everyone** to think about whether they would be prepared to lead or contribute to one of the roles. **RF** offered to lead on the housing needs survey.

We also discussed the need to develop our own website and **IB** agreed to speak to Alex Elderfield.

We agreed that we would investigate how s.106 provisions operate.

5. Communications, next steps.

We would initially launch the NDP initiative through the November issue of the Blewbury Bulletin when we will ask for more volunteers particularly those with skills such as IT or planning and also those who are under 40.

When our plans are better developed we will seek to obtain as much feedback from the village as possible through surveys, a curry evening and/or drop in events.

In all our communications we recognised the need to ensure that we did not raise unrealistic expectations and we can't solve all the village's problems through this plan.

DM to circulate an initial draft for the Bulletin – deadline middle of the month.

6. Regular meetings. Subject to the views of the next meeting (22/10), meetings will be at 19.30 on the first Monday of the month. RF offered to arrange for the Melland Room to be available for our next two meetings.