

Blewbury Neighbourhood Development Plan

Notes of a meeting held on Tuesday 22nd October at the Old Mill.

Present: Richard Farrell, Dermot Mathias, Helen Mathias, John Ogden, Gwyn Rees, Jon Townsend.

1. Registration with the Vale.

RF has started preparing a statement using the Parish boundary to define the area the Plan will cover. Once submitted to the Vale, there will be a six week period during which the public can voice any disagreement to the area contained within the Parish boundaries.

2. Raising Finance.

DM recapped the amount of money available from the various sources as listed at the last meeting, giving further details of the money available from Locality (£7,500 in cash, £9,000 in payment for services such as consultants).

3. Appointing Advisers.

DM reiterated the information given at the last meeting and said that an adviser from Locality could be invited to the next meeting. Not only would they help with the initial stages of developing the plan but would give advice on the further stages and when consultation with the village was necessary.

There was some discussion on the areas where it could be necessary to employ professional advisers. The two most important/likely areas were:

- (i) Housing needs, to establish the current supply and future needs. RF said that this was so central to the plan that it would be sensible to employ an independent external adviser. GR pointed out that it would be much better for the village to assess demographic needs.
- (ii) Selecting suitable sites for development and where development should not be allowed. DM said that there were three options: employ an external adviser, members of the NDP committee to advise, accept advice from a professional living in the village eg. Brian Duckett. RF pointed out that before sites could be selected, landowners would have to be asked if they were interested in selling their land for development.

4. Roles and Working Parties.

DM repeated the five areas that should be covered ie, housing needs, site identification and selection, living in the village, sustainability and communications and engagement. He asked all to consider whether they would be prepared to be responsible for any of these working parties. JO said that the housing needs working party would be crucial and RF repeated his offer to lead this. GR said that the existing Sustainability Group should be able to take on the sustainability role and it was acknowledged that this would be relevant to all areas of the NP. GR offered to talk to Ange Barton of the BVS about their possible involvement, particularly with their experience of organising village events. DM stressed the importance of communications and engagement and said that Joe Goyder has experience of conducting surveys and analysing feedback. JT thought that his IT could be used.

5. Communications, next steps.

DM confirmed that he would be drafting some information (to be checked by Katherine MacDonald from the Vale) to go into the November Blewbury Bulletin. Apart from informing the village of the NP he hoped to recruit further volunteers from this.

6. Regular meetings. It was agreed that meetings would be held on the second Monday of the month. RF said that meetings should be open to the public and therefore they should be held a public room. He has offered to pay for the Melland room for the next two meetings. Meetings of the working parties need not be open to the public and therefore could be held in people's houses reducing the cost. Date of next meeting: December 9th.

Other matters raised:

- JO queried the timescale for the development of the plan. DM suggested approximately 18 months and stressed the importance of working with the Vale as they developed their county wide plans. If the completion of the BNP coincided with the Vale's Plan we had more chance of meeting the Vale's housing requirements as opposed to offering more than required or unacceptably less.
- RF said that he would look into the administration and accounting required for controlling any money funds. Would the committee need to appoint a treasurer or would the PC be in charge of receiving grants, paying out money etc?