

Blewbury Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee
Minutes of the meeting on Monday, 11th August 2014
at Hall Barn Close, Blewbury

Present: Dermot Mathias (DM) (Chair), Chris Lakeland (CL), Joe Goyder (JG), Mike Marshall (MM), John Ogden (JO), Eric Eisenhandler (EE), Jo Lakeland (JL), Richard Farrell (RF), Anne Millman (AM), Nick Chancellor (NC).

Apologies: Vanessa Fox, Kalle Peigne, Alex Musson, Angela Hoy, Pat Mattimore, Ian Bacon, Caroline O'Donnell

Housing survey: Everyone was now happy with the work so far and it was ready for production and distribution. "Wanted" posters approved and would be produced by Elphin and Kalle. The meeting was reminded that volunteers were still needed for the distribution and help for residents. DM mentioned that Steve White had said that Village Hall refurbishment project group could provide volunteers if we were able to provide reciprocal help to them. After discussion, the general feeling was not to take up the offer.

NC had obtained quotes for inputting information and production which showed Stratford-on Avon District Council as offering the most competitive quote. Stratford would provide design for £90, data processing for 400 questionnaires at £465 (and pro-rata for larger numbers), and producing data tables £120. ORCC quoted £1543, plus VAT for the work. DM agreed to explore with Anton value for money issues.

Bulletin: The draft entry for the bulletin was discussed. It was agreed that it was too long and EE would reduce it.

Landscape Review: Ian Bacon had reviewed the proposals and has said that the scope is good and that he is satisfied with the price quoted. The potential issue of the cost of time for any additional meetings was flagged up. About the issue of ensuring value for money CL suggested that this should be addressed by benchmarking and DM would arrange this.

There was discussion about should be given when commissioning the work. Given indications from the Vale that Blewbury might escape an allocation of required new houses it was agreed that the approach should be to identify small sites which would be least harmful to the landscape, ranked on a sequential basis.

DM said that Hugh Osborn had asked about the possibility of having policies to protect the sensitive areas of the village from the adverse impact of development of houses and gardens. It was agreed that there should be further discussion about this. RF suggested that recommendations on this might be included in the remit of the landscape consultant.

Website: It was agreed that news of the group on the website was patchy, although it was pointed out that this was to an extent a reflection of the way in which the group worked. JL and EE would endeavour to attend all meetings but otherwise would pick up items for publication from the minutes. It was suggested that examples of items for inclusion could be found on the websites of other villages preparing plans, particularly Woodcote. Other suggestions included a jargon buster and notes on sustainability. It was pointed out that the website included an email address: were there arrangements to pick up and respond to any messages? JL and DM would speak outside the meeting about other issues.

Living in the village team: announced that they had had their first meeting and would be reporting to the group in due course.

Next meeting: Monday, 8th September in the Melland Room at 7.30pm