

Minutes of a Meeting of the Blewbury Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

held in the Melland Room on Monday 8 December 2014

Present: Ian Bacon (IB), Nick Chancellor (NC), Eric Eisenhandler (EE), Richard Farrell (RF), Joe Goyder (JG), Mike Marshall (MM), Dermot Mathias (Chair) (DM), Pat Mattimore (PM), Anne Millman(AM), John Ogden (JO), Gwyn Rees (GR) (KP).

Apologies: Vanessa Fox (VF), Angela Hoy (AH), Alex Musson (AMus), , Jo Lakeland(JL), Anton Nath (AN), Kally Peigne, Andrew Maxted

Agenda Item 1– November minutes

Minutes agreed without further discussion

Agenda Item 2– Update on Housing Needs Survey

AM summarised top line results. The full analysis will be discussed at the next meeting

Key findings. *Over 6 in 10 households responded*

- *A majority of Blewbury households are relatively small – (i.e. one or two person households)*
- *Most homes privately owned, but variety of values*
- *The sample contains a good spread of household incomes*
- *A significant minority of residents looking to move home in foreseeable future – many would like to stay in Blewbury. For those that would like to move but cannot, affordability and lack of suitable property are the two most significant barriers*
- *Strong preference for edge of settlement development over infill development*

More detailed analysis to follow at January steering group.

Agenda Item 3 – Update on Landscape Appraisal

DM summarised recent work undertaken by BD on the appraisal. The report is in draft but is likely to identify 8 landscape areas which have been assessed against various metrics to determine their suitability and capacity for development. Overall none of the areas are deemed to have any significant capacity for future development. 5 of the areas are deemed not to be suitable for any significant amount of housing and 3 have limited potential. The site east of the village facing Blewburton Hill and south of the village at the foothills of the downs are deemed to be most sensitive in landscape terms.

Discussion re: historic planning applications on the Church Moor site. RF recalled applications in late 1980s / early 1990s which were refused on appeal.

The appraisal has not yet taken into account what areas within the village envelope should be protected and what could be developed. The group discussed how much detail might be appropriate in this area. Brian Duckett (BD) is open to the Neighbourhood Plan process directing him to sites to include/assess in the appraisal. It was agreed that we should ask Brian to set out his views as a basis for discussion by the steering group. This is a potential point for discussion at the upcoming village consultation event.

Village Event

Discussion re: February 28 event to present results of housing needs survey. Event to include at least one main presentation with questions, but also an informal 'drop in' element where questions could be asked on an informal basis. Spread over several hours.

It was also mooted that the event could include a presentation or discussion of the various potential sites. However, no consensus on how to go about asking this question in a way that would produce usable outcomes. DM suggested that event details would need to be firmed up at January meeting.

Agenda item 4 – Plan Framework

General consensus re: content of Plan Framework distributed by DM.

Followed by discussion on content to be generated for various sections as follows:

- IB – noted that Sustainability Appraisal would be a separate document sitting alongside the main body of the Plan.
- Demographics – ORCC report and analysis by AM on census data will heavily inform this section.
- Recreation – AH compiling a list of village societies and to look at how other neighbourhood plans have presented this information. Tattenhall and Thame suggested as good examples. Research will need to identify gaps and opportunities. Brief discussion on cycle routes to neighbouring settlements.
- Discussion on mechanisms for securing contributions towards recreation infrastructure. NC suggested that specific items may need to be officially recorded on Vale of White Horse 'Reg 123' list for CIL. NC to investigate further and report back to future meeting
- Shopping – PM to speak to owners in order to determine any key issues/priorities
- Business and Employment – Need to research this community further – IB to attend "Home Alone" Christmas Party for informal discussions. Also discussed need to reach out to the local Farms and Riding School as major village employers.
- Education – GR to attend future school governors meeting. Will plan a discussion guide in advance to make sure all the right bases are covered.
- Traffic - JG to take on this task as wife has a special interest. Will involve conversations with MM and ME re: bus services and upcoming renewal of contract
- Sewers and drainage – GR to take on this topic area
- Churches, society and sense of community – PM to talk to vicar

- IB noted that it is very important we all keep a note of consultation activities as these would need to be recorded for the Plan. EE agreed to investigate suitable software which we could all use.
- IB agreed to circulate a note setting out a suggested format for the Living in The Village sections.

Agenda item 5 – AOB

None

Agenda item 6 – Next meeting

Monday 12 January. DM not able to attend.