

Blewbury Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Minutes of Meeting on 13th April 2015 in the Melland Room

Present: Dermot Mathias (DM - Chair), Ian Bacon (IB), Nick Chancellor (NC), Eric Eisenhandler (EE), Richard Farrell (RF), Joe Goyder (JG), Angela Hoy (AH), Chris Lakeland (CL), Jo Lakeland (JL) Mike Marshall (MM), Helen Mathias (HM), Pat Mattimore (PM), Andrew Maxted (AMax), Anne Millman (AM), Alex Musson (AMus), John Ogden (JO), Gwyn Rees (GR).

Apologies: Anton Nath (AN), Kally Peigne (KP)

1. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 9th March were agreed.

2. **Matters Arising:**

Focus groups – IB reported that he had a commitment from a number of younger people to make up a group. **AM** has drafted a profiling questionnaire for those who offered to help at the February meeting and she will distribute. **AM** also agreed to submit a precis of the Q and A's which were raised at the Housing Needs Survey Presentation on 28th February for publication on the website.

Landscape appraisal. **DM** reported that he had received no further comments on the appraisal and would advise Brian Duckett of this.

Agreeing overall strategy. **DM** advised that he would circulate a report of the helpful conversations he had had with the Chaddersley Corbett and Woodcote neighbourhood planning groups.

3. **Sustainability Scoping Report/Strategic Environmental Assessment**

AMax asked for an update on the progress of the BNDP. DM, AM and NC gave a brief summary of progress to date. It was noted that the objectives would need to be looked at again in the light of the consultation that had taken place. It was not anticipated that there would be any major changes to the objectives and the steering committee was at the stage where policies could now be developed. It had been agreed that it would not be appropriate to allocate sites for new development.

AMax advised that any development in the village should be constrained by the findings of the Landscape Appraisal and the AONB designation and that this would

make it unnecessary to set specific capacity limits on any one site. He pointed out that to do so would potentially contravene the NPP Framework.

Much discussion resulted from this point and IB suggested that if a limit could not be set on the number of houses appropriate to any one site, a definition of 'low capacity' as used in the Landscape Appraisal would be informative. AM queried whether a different expression of scale could be used and AMus thought that villagers would expect the size of any acceptable development to be quantified. It was agreed that we would need to revisit this point

NC asked AMax to update the meeting on the status of the Local Plan. AMax gave a brief update noting that although there were a lot of objectors, it was possible that the Plan would be published mid-autumn. He also stated that the VWHDC would not be able to demonstrate a five year land supply until the Plan was further advanced, probably after publication.

AMax stated that he thought a Strategic Environmental Assessment would probably not be needed in Blewbury because no specific site allocations were planned. **IB** and **DM** committed to complete the Screening Opinion Questionnaire to enable the VWHDC to draft their Screening Opinion. **DM** would circulate the SO Questionnaire with these minutes (attached).

4. Editorial team and terms of reference

EE updated the group on setting up the editorial team as specified in his email of 8.4.15 'Editorial Group'. AM, IB and NC had all agreed to help and JL, EE and Claire Eisenhandler could all be involved in final proof reading. Terms of Reference drafted by AM as detailed in the email were agreed. EE suggested that before finalising the format a design professional should review the document.

5. Finances

Remaining funds amounted to approximately £9000, £8000 having been spent so far (JO). DM reported that Locality had offered to help the group apply for more funding but it was thought no further major expenditure would be needed. **DM** would check that the Landscape Appraisal had been fully paid for. AMax said that he and his team would examine the draft Plan and that the VWHDC were responsible for the cost of the referendum. It was felt that there were sufficient funds to cover the cost of producing the final document and publicity prior to the referendum.

6. Initial draft policies

A Max offered David Potter's help for this as he was employed by the VWHDC to run workshops specifically to help neighbourhood planning groups to clarify their objectives and draft policies. It was agreed that AM, IB, NC and DM would meet him on 23rd April at 3pm. **DM** to confirm arrangements and organise meeting room in Blewbury. **IB** hoped to circulate draft policies by 17.4.15.

7. Discussion on report drafting

A Max reminded the group that the 'Living in the Village' section of the Plan should be concise. The group agreed to meet shortly to agree drafting.

CL stressed the importance of having a policy to cover infrastructure, particularly drainage and sewerage. He reported on the attitude of Thames Water to the Chailey House Development and their insistence that a plan for the treatment of waste water, water supply and sewerage must be in place before the development could commence. A Max pointed out that any new development would have to provide plans for this irrespective of whether there was a policy in the BNP. It was agreed that we need to investigate this further and if necessary have a policy even if it is not effective.

8. AOB

CL reported that RF would be leaving the Parish Council in May and that he would nominate a new representative after the PC elections to join the steering group.

9. Date of next meeting

May 13th, 7.30pm in the Melland room.