

Blewbury Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Minutes of Meeting on 9th March 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), Mike Marshall (MM), Pat Mattimore (PM), Anne Millman (AM), Alex Musson (AMus), Anton Nath (AN), John Ogden (JO)

Apologies: Jo Lakeland (JL), Chris Lakeland (CL), Andrew Maxted (AMax), Kally Peigne (KP), David Potter, Gwyn Rees (GR)

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th February were agreed.

Matters Arising: Although Helen Mathias had agreed to take on the role of Minute Secretary, she had had to send her apologies for today's meeting so Angela Hoy offered to minute the meeting.

Feedback on Housing Survey Presentation, 28th February: All agreed the day had been a success, with many comments of approval from the village, describing the presentation as very professional and informative. 95 people had attended in addition to group members and their contact details were added to the spreadsheet set up last year, which now gives us a total of 114 addresses/emails comprising some 200 individuals, of which 65 were new to the spreadsheet. AH agreed to liaise with AM on the contact spreadsheet. Additionally 16 volunteers had completed the reply slip to join the suggested focus groups including two architects, a surveyor and a flood and drainage expert and four more sent emails after the meeting. It was noted that again attendees comprised largely the older demographic, with not enough young people. AN said this was entirely normal and that it was difficult to enthruse younger villagers. **AM** suggested putting a focus group together of under 40s to discuss affordable homes. **IB** said he would contact the Toddlers and Playgroup convenors for volunteers [Ian, I don't think the Toddlers group is active at the moment], as well as talking to school-age young people such as Grace Brooks and several others. **AM** advised she had a record of questions and answers from the event and would précis these into a report on the website. Thanks to PM for organising and serving the refreshments, and her helpers. **AM,IB**

JO suggested the forthcoming **Food and Craft Fair** would be a good venue at which to spread the word, being held in the Village Hall on Saturday 21st March. Sally Lewis was organising on behalf of the Playgroup; **JO** would ask if we could put up our display material (**IB/AM** have these) in the Committee Room (Doctors waiting room). Cost of taking a table was £20, **JO** to negotiate. Response leaflets could be put on tables for people to complete but it was agreed that someone should be on duty to speak to those interested in volunteering. **EE, IB, RF, JO, AH** said they would be there [others?]. **JO**

Landscape Appraisal: Brian Duckett and Tanya Morris were still finalising this. **DM** had spoken to Tanya who reported that so far very little feedback had been received on the information displayed and discussed at the meeting. In particular they need to know whether the special places mentioned were correct and complete. **DM** noted that the maps showing the 11 landscape character areas did not appear to be the latest (it did not include Cossicle Mead); however the new draft will show the areas closest to the village centre on a more up to date map. **All** were requested to look at the Landscape Appraisal which was on the website and forward any comments before **DM** speaks to **BD**. **DM,ALL**

Sustainability Scoping Report/Strategic Environmental Assessment: Despite saying that he hoped to attend, **AMax** was not present so the group was unable to discuss his reasons for saying this part of the Plan was unnecessary. On being asked his opinion, Anton thought it was a very valuable report to do and that Riki Therivel, who had run the training session, was an acknowledged expert in the field. **AN** requested he be sent the report to review, **IB** agreed to do

this. **DM** said he would speak to AMax . **NC** agreed to recirculate the draft report again and asked all to study it.

IB,DM,NC

Agreeing Overall Strategy: **DM** had circulated a note on 2nd March outlining his thoughts and in particular whether it was our job to nominate building sites or merely to agree desirable criteria. He requested **ALL** to look at other Neighbourhood Plans to see how they tackled this section. **DM** spoke specifically about Chaddersley Corbett and Woodcote, and agreed to speak to them to find out if having a Plan had helped them. **IB** then listed the elements he thought should make up our desired criteria: size of developments (8-10 houses and **not** infill); landscape requirements; sustainability; drainage and parking considerations; style; site layout; space and size of developments. **IB** agreed to expand on these ideas and circulate to the group.

IB,DM,ALL

Anton drew our attention to the report "Writing Planning Policies" (**DM** had circulated a copy) which he recommended. As two architects had volunteered to assist in the focus groups, it was agreed that they should be approached and asked if they would help. **AM** said she would draw up a questionnaire to all the volunteers asking them to let us know any area of expertise they thought would be helpful to us. **DM** noted that Gwyn Rees was an expert in sewerage but was extremely busy at the moment and unable to attend many meetings. There were two local experts on water in the village, Mike Edmunds and Paul Whitehead, who could be asked to contribute.

AM

Next Steps, including focus groups: On a show of hands, none of the group wanted to designate development sites and preferred setting criteria; **DM** noted that only three of the eleven landscape character areas in the Landscape appraisal had any capacity (low) for development and it would be helpful to know how many houses each of these could accommodate. The group needed to consider setting a cap on the number of development sites and have control over the planning criteria, which would need to be specified in the Plan.

It was agreed that we needed to set up the Editorial Team. **EE** agreed to be on the Editorial Team and would think about others who might be suitable, along with the rest of the group; **AM** offered to join. **IB** suggested we speak to Loraine Fergusson to see if she was interested in helping with format, and ask her for rough costings. **PM** offered to do this as she saw her fairly often – although it was agreed that there was no urgency for this. **AM** would suggest some draft terms of reference.

EE,AM

RF pointed out that the Parish Council needed to be involved, as the group was acting at their behest. He thought it would be helpful if there were someone from the group (other than himself) who could join the Parish council and reminded the meeting that elections were fast approaching. **DM** suggested that it would be beneficial for the BNDP and PC to have a joint meeting at a later date.

Any Other Business: **AMus** reported that James Dyson had bought the Beeswax Estate up at Churn and various residents had been warned off walking on established footpaths in that area. **RF** confirmed this was on the Agenda for the next PC meeting. It should also be discussed with the Countryside Officer.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 13th April 2015, 7.30pm.

ACH 12th March 2015