

Blewbury Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

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

Present: Dermot Mathias (DM - Chair), Ian Bacon (IB), Nick Chancellor (NC), Eric Eisenhandler (EE), Richard Farrell (RF), Angela Hoy (AH), Lydia Inglis (LI), Mike Marshall (MM), Helen Mathias (HM), Pat Mattimore (PM), Anne Millman (AM), Alex Musson (AMus), John Ogden (JO), Charlotte Perry (CP).

Apologies: Joe Goyder (JG), Miriam Jacobs (MJ), Chris Lakeland (CL), Jo Lakeland (JL), Andrew Maxted (AMax), Anton Nath (AN), Kally Peigne (KP), Gwyn Rees (GR).

- 1. Welcome.** DM welcomed new member CP from the Parish Council
- 2. Minutes** of the meeting held on 8th June were agreed and EE would post them on the website once DM had amended his note to self re attachments.
- 3. Matters arising** not otherwise on the agenda:

Sustainability scoping/SEA. DM reported that he had now completed the questionnaire and sent it to the Vale. He thought that little further work would be required as the BNDP would not be proposing to allocate sites for development.

Finances DM reported that he had agreed to pay £750 to HAD for the landscape appraisal now and a further sum (less than £750) if money was available at the end of the BNDP project. It was agreed not to request further information from BD.

4. Update on landscape appraisal.

The final version had been received and circulated to the steering group. (Appendix 2 – Analysis of Landscape Capacity). DM drew attention to the definitions of Landscape Capacity, ‘Negligible’ meaning no development and ‘Low’ meaning with a potential for up to 10 dwellings. EE queried the validity of a ‘Negligible/Low’ capacity assessment and whether the report should be more definitive. After much discussion and views from NC it was agreed that this assessment provided some flexibility and that further protection would be provided anyway by the Vale’s Local Plan not supporting development outside the existing built area (see Core Policy 4).

DM suggested that we should have a policy defining the built area of the village. **DM** agreed to circulate the Landscape appraisal to the Parish Council before it was posted on the website.

5. Report back from the working groups.

- **Policies.** IB reported on the draft policies contained in the document circulated with the minutes. NC explained that there had been two meetings with AMax and David Potter who had given some guidance on individual policies. They did not appear to disagree with our latest proposals but would like to see the other sections of our plan for context. IB added that certain policies that were already in the local plan should be included in order to gain the approval of the village.

Some discussion was held on local green space designation and the merits and disadvantages of designating two or three sites eg the Play Close as opposed to many sites eg smaller pieces of land within the village. NC reminded the group that each site would have to meet the criteria laid down by the NPPF and IB recorded the fact that at present no discussions had been held with the landowners of potential green space sites. It was agreed that the steering group should decide which pieces of land might be considered for this designation and **LI** agreed to submit some proposals to be discussed at the next meeting. **AM** offered her husband's help to look at a specific possible green space site that had had planning applications rejected in the past. In particular he would investigate whether there were any environmental (eg wildlife) or conservation reasons for protecting this site. **RF** also agreed to explore whether the PC has any had any records which would explain why planning had been refused in the past. NC explained that if we could find the application number we would be able to obtain the records from the VOWH.

DM reported he had had a conversation with Dave Chetwyn, a neighbourhood planning consultant who advised Woodcote and lectures for Locality, about advising us on our policies. The objective was to obtain advice as to how policies should be expressed in order to satisfy the inspector and also to ensure that our adopted policies are effective in practice. His charges were £500 per day. AM suggested that two other practices should be asked to quote for this work and NC was asked to suggest another suitable consultant. DM explained that he had already had a quote from another consultancy.

AM thanked the policy group for their work to date.

- **Living in the village.** EE reported that the editorial team had started work on this section and hoped to have a first draft by the next meeting. It was pointed out that the topic of travel and traffic had not been covered. **CP** agreed to look at the topic and speak to JG and MJ.
- **Building design/aesthetics.** AM reported that a meeting will be held by the end of the month.
- **Editorial.** EE reported that once sections had been drafted, he would send them back to the groups for review.

6. Individual reports

- **Drainage and flooding.** A thorough report had been submitted by GR which the steering group commended. EE suggested that the summary appear in the plan and the main body be included in the Appendix. **EE** agreed to ask GR for further information on the inadequate fresh water supply to the village. **DM** agreed to ask GR to frame a policy for this topic.
- **Historic Buildings.** DM thanked LI for her report and said that policies for this area would mainly be covered in the Building design and aesthetics section. IB asked that the streetscape issues raised in the report be included as this was an important area.

7. Any other business

- AM reported that she would be holding a meeting on 21st July with young people in the village to find out what they value in the village and their hopes for the future of the village.
- LI reported that the Parish Council was concerned by the time the plan was taking. It was agreed that we should aim to consult the village on our proposed policies at meetings to be held in October.
- DM explained that he would attempt to pull the draft plan together in August. It was agreed that the steering group would then need to have one or more away days (or half days) to review the whole plan.

8. Date of next meeting: Monday 10th August – 7.30 in the Melland Room