

Bodmin Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Meeting Notes for meeting of 2.11.2021

Meeting commenced at 18.30.

Steering Group Members Present:

BTC Councillors: Jeremy Cooper (Chairman); Joy Bassett; Pete Skea; Phil Brown; Hilda Blacklaw; Phil Cooper; Graham Mountcastle, Graham Frost; Andy Coppin

Jane Tily; Christine Howard; Jack Stevenson; Alan Foad; Danny Batten; Craig Rowe, Danny Batten; Ian Awcock (Awcock Ward Partnership) Darren Summerfield (LRM Planning)

In attendance: Peter Martin (Town Clerk); Louise Pinnegar (Senior Admin)

NDP/2021/58

Chairman's Announcements, correspondence

No correspondence received. No announcements.

Apologies:

Barbara Brittain, Jenny Cruse (also sent in resignation due to other commitments), Debbie Henderson, Phil Cooper

Declarations of interest, dispensations

Ian Awcock declared an interest in that AWP are appointed by Wain Homes in supporting the Halgavor Planning application on the transport and drainage aspects. He is not personally involved. This declaration was made following a member bringing up the Halgavor development.

NDP/2021/59

To receive a presentation from Awcock Ward Partnership in respect of survey results and subsequent discussion, agreeing the next stages of the process

Ian Awcock introduced himself and Darren Summerfield (Planning Consultant with background of local Govt and Private sector, working on Neighbourhood Plans)

Aim to help BTC take the Neighbourhood Plan forward to the next stage.

Ian Awcock's team have been working on analysing the surveys. This was presented to the group via condensed summary of the 50 PowerPoint slide show.

The slideshow was shared in order that people can view at their leisure, placed in Share Point Folder for access by the NDP members, and Town Clerk to put to the Planning Committee Agenda (being a subcommittee to the Planning Committee), and once received by them obtain authority to share the information.

There was an opportunity for questions and answers and questions were as follows:

Q: Do we think we have enough data for start forming policies?

A: It is enough to be able to proceed and good starting point. There will be other information that needs to be collected, to provide an evidence base, such as housing need data, retail needs data, employment data to add and supplement the data collected already. Engagement with the community and collecting data from them should be a continuing

theme. Further exercises of engagement with the community / technical experts / officers at Cornwall Council etc will be required.

It was clarified that the data could be used as a starting point for further discussions out in the community

Q: Was there any data that stood out?

A: Housing need was a surprise. There was a high need for one person accommodation. This could be investigated further with the further engagement.

- Craig confirmed that Cornwall Home Choice data (affordable housing register for Cornwall) correlate with the survey results
- There was a desire to keep young people in the town and support young families to stay in the town.
- There was a desire to ensure that there is more engagement with the hard to reach and vulnerable.
- A Housing subgroup could be formed to analyse and work on that area of the plan.
- The consultants felt that the next stage for them was to meet personally with the team, in the Town.
- The consultant also felt it important to share the results of the survey with the public.

Next steps:

- Meet with consultants personally, discuss themes and headlines further
- Consultants would like to come down to Bodmin, walk round, start learning about Bodmin, talk with the team, develop a strategy

Darren gave a slide presentation of What a Neighbourhood Plan can do:

- No obligation for an NDP, community led
- Forms part of the local planning framework, sits alongside Cornwall Councils development strategy and has equal weight and must be taken into consideration
- Subject to independent examination and a referendum, so key element to include local consensus
- Can identify where new housing and industrial development should go
- Can identify town boundaries / extend
- Can look at housing design and code
- Can protect designated green spaces
- Can identify areas for funding bids
- Cannot block development
- Needs to be supported by evidence
- Must operate within the planning laws and guidance, but can look to challenge
- basic conditions to be tested against / rules to be followed.
- Cannot de-allocate sites

Q: Who would the independent examiners be?

A: There is a national register of independent examiners, it will be a dialogue between the steering group and CC as to who is appointed. Tend to be Planners, Architects etc. (These initial discussions have been started with CC)

Q: Can we use this evidence base to enhance existing policies

A: it will depend, as needs to be in accordance with national and strategic policy and guidance but may be able to achieve objectives through design and planning process. Can explore specific ideas as discussions progress.

It was agreed the next step would be for the Consultants to come to the Town, meet the steering group in person, brainstorm, work out timelines, and walk round the town. Subsequently agreed for 27th November 2021.

Members of the group to think about how they can engage with community, e.g. church, coffee meeting groups etc.

Next meeting: Saturday 27th November at 10.00 am for Town Tour followed by talks in Shire House Suite.