

Meeting of Bovingdon Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Zoom Conference Call

6:30pm on Tuesday 8th September, 2020

Attendees:

Julia Marshall - Chairman
Jacqueline Veater – Planning Consultant
Anne Barrett
Brad Gunn
Alison Gunn
June Gosling
Michelle Hilditch
John Hislam

Apologies:

Gary Cullum
Ben Richardson
Graham Barrett
Sue Miller
Dave Stent
Philip Walker
Paul Campbell
Neil Crockett
Pauline Wright
Clare Norton

1. Minutes of BNPSG Meeting on 11th August

Agreed

2. Matters arising

- Drop Box is now hosted by Bovingdon Parish Council and members can view the folder via the weblink that was emailed to everyone. There is no need to download the folder, especially as there are now a large number of photos that will use up space. A selection of aerial photos has been put in a separate folder and the link emailed. Please let JM know if any other aerial views are required.
- AB has shared the Community Group information and JV has worked with BR on transport policies, which have since been updated.

3. Group Updates

Transport Group – Work on policies and action plans is progressing.

Community Group – SM has done extensive work laying out policies and action plans using Publisher. The group has been alerted to the recent felling of trees, with TPOs, in the parish without prior notification. SM has acquired a useful policy document re. the protection of trees from Tunbridge Wells PC and the housing group will include a similar policy, with the aim to protect trees and hedgerows on development sites and to improve dialogue between DBC and BPC, re. work to hedgerows and trees. This proposal was well supported.

The concept of designating a new wider Conservation Area of Bovingdon Green is supported by Neil Robertson (DBC Conservation Officer).

There was no further news re enquiries about the re-designation of the former ancient footpath from Duck Hall Farm to Little Hay. This proposal will be discussed at the next Outdoors Committee of BPC.

Business Group – Now that the proposed business zones have been identified, BPC has instructed the Parish Clerk, Mike Kember, to apply to DBC for an Article 4 Direction to be served, to restrict planning in these zones; this would remove the automatic right to permitted development, i.e. change of use to residential and ensure all such applications are considered in full by BPC & DBC.

Housing Group – The group will meet again on 10th September to continue work on policies and developing these into action plans. JM said KM can take additional photos to support identified sites as and when requested. He just needs a permissible launch point.

- 4. Update on DBC's Local Plan** – DBC's Local Plan will go to the Scrutiny Cttee on 23rd Sept and the information will be in the public domain a week before. JV screen shared the timetable including another Issues and Options consultation taking place between Nov 2020 and January 2021. This gives BNPSG more time to extend its communication with the community and get feedback. The whole Local Plan process will take at least two years before it is adopted which is why we need to have a strong NP in place to provide up to date policies against which planning applications can be judged during this time.
- 5. Next Steps – Draft NP policies and Consultation with residents** - We need to be able to react promptly once DBC releases details of the draft Local Plan, particularly with regard to the numbers and details of proposed site allocations. DBC's consultation will run for a minimum of 6 weeks between Nov and Jan. We can start the NP consultation process before then. The challenge will be to communicate this to the community and engage them in the process whilst overcoming the constantly changing limitations imposed in response to Covid-19.

Agreed:

- Ideas for projects that did not amount to planning policies should be worked up and collated together in an action plan, to be included in the NP appendices
 - Focus on preparing supporting maps, photos etc in readiness to assemble and finalise the draft NP. (JV recommended that supporting documentation that was essential to support policies should be placed in appendices but that additional reports could be published separately
 - Liaise with GC re publishing the NP consultation in The Villager – late November
- Action - JM**
- Use BPC website & social media e.g. Facebook
 - YouTube. Using video with voice over can be very effective. AB offered to contact West Herts College whose media students may want to take on a U-tube production as a course project.
- Action - AB**
- Set up a physical display in the Memorial Hall in early December with pre-booked time slots if necessary.

- 5. Government Planning Reforms – Potential Impact / CPRE Response** - Some issues have been highlighted since the last BNPSG meeting. CPRE is trying to take a view on the impact of the proposed reform of the system. We will need to understand and focus on the new design codes as they become apparent. The changes are radical and will take years to evolve.

- 6. AOB** - none

Meeting ended at 7.15pm

Next Meeting – Tuesday 13th October at 6:30pm by Zoom