

Meeting of Bovingdon Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Memorial Hall

7:30pm on Tuesday 11th June 2019

Attendees:

Julia Marshall
Clare Norton
Ben Richardson
Ros Goodyear
Brad Gunn
Neil Crockett
Dave Stent
John Hislam
Hugh Schneiders
Peter Jarman
Paul Campbell
Geraint Whalley
Jacqueline Veater – Planning Consultant

Giles Meredith – CDA Rural Housing Enabler

Apologies:

Anne Barrett
Steve Bowen
Michelle Hildich
James Cosgrave
Carole Syms
Jenny Thomas
Hannah Beauchamp
Ross Dorras
Gary Gadston
Tracy Wood
Peter Gillard

1. The minutes of the meeting on 14th May 2019 were agreed

2. Matters Arising:

- *Members of the Community Group to visit Pitstone* - AB has contacted Pitstone PC; date TBC.
- *JV to contact H&MWT* – H&MWT has conducted an ecological survey of Bovingdon Parish and published a report, which will help inform the NP. ***JH to contact Alex at the Trust to arrange a follow up meeting to discuss the report.***
- *BR to conduct a traffic survey* – Survey completed & findings distributed to group. Traffic volume did not appear to cause issues; the main congestion problems were caused by parking in the High Street. BR also looked at which cars were parked at different times of the day and it appears that many of the cars parked during the daytime belong to people who work in and around the High Street.

3. CDA Housing Needs Survey

Giles Meredith (CDA Rural Housing Enabler) presented the findings of the survey to the group and has produced an Executive Summary, which may be distributed to the wider community. Main points: There was a good response to the survey with 465 submissions (22%) 84% of respondents supported some form of 'Affordable Housing', with 28% supporting up to 25 homes and 27% 'as many homes as necessary to fulfil local need'. Identified a shortage of Starter Homes, Adapted homes/homes for the elderly, and homes suitable for downsizers. 44 potential households reported a need for housing within the next 5 years, which could not be met by the general housing market. The qualifying respondents were mainly those who require Affordable/Social Homes for Rent at the Local Housing Allowance Rate. Need for 22 x 1 bed units; 18 x 2 bed units; 4 x 3 bed units. Bovingdon is a large village, therefore does not qualify for Affordable Rural Housing. To make building these homes viable we would have to be able to purchase land a low cost or use Council land. The group thanked Giles & CDA for carrying out the survey and for the informative presentation.

4. Meeting with Dacorum Borough Council

JM, JV, CN, MH & GB (Chair of BPC), met with Francis Whittaker, DBC Interim Assistant Team Leader (Strategic Planning) & Stephen Mendham, Strategic Planning Officer on Friday 7th June. There was some disagreement about whether Bovingdon NP is allowed to assess & allocate sites in the absence of Dacorum's finalised Local Plan. JV has supplied DBC with the relevant supporting documentation from the NPPF and has contacted Locality for advice and case studies from other NP areas. The group will meet again with DBC in the next few weeks, to discuss how best to move forward.

5. Open Day

In light of the above, it was decided to postpone the Open Day scheduled for Sunday 7th June. It was agreed, instead, to publish feedback from the surveys and from each group on the BPC website, with details posted on Social Media sites, in the Library and on the village notice boards. JV also suggested she carry out a presentation to residents at a Parish Council meeting; possibly the September meeting.

JM to contact BPC & confirm date

6. Financial Update

Bovingdon NP has been awarded the grant of £9,000 towards our Neighbourhood Plan.

JM to complete the formal acceptance document

Meeting ended at 8:50pm

Next meeting Tuesday 9th July 2019 at 7:30pm in the Memorial Hall clubroom