

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Minutes of the meeting of 24th May 2016

PRESENT:

Ian Ashbolt, John Bailey, Joe Berman, Robert Bettley-Smith, Michael Covell, Graham Ecclestone, Richard Head, Mick Padmore.
Gwyn Griffiths.

APOLOGIES

Dennis, Seb Daly, Ian Walton. County Cllr David Loades.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of 3rd May were received.

MATTERS ARISING

RH reported on his actions since the last meeting:

He had made a presentation on the Neighbourhood Plan at the Annual Electors' Meeting;

He had prepared a draft leaflet on the Neighbourhood Plan along with a summary of progress on the Parish Plan since 2005.

FEEDBACK

JBe and MP reported on their meeting with the Borough Council (NULBC) and supplied a paper setting out the way forward. An additional para 2.4 needed to be added to note that a Neighbourhood Planning Officer was to be appointed by NULBC in Autumn 2016 to act as a link between NULBC and local NPs.

IA outlined some issues facing both NPs and Parish Councils in the current political and economic situation. It was important that NPs tapped into available sources of possible help including the Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association (SPCA) weekly e-mail newsletter. The NP should not be directed at the "here and now" but toward a 5 year horizon. There was also a need to consider the role of the Parish Council itself. Their role was being challenged nationally - do they add value? Are there too many of them? How should they function in future? The implication of BBW being on the Borough/ County/ Regional boundary also needed to be considered.

The Group wished to proceed formally and JBe and MP agreed to draft the necessary formal notice to NULBC.

ENGAGEMENT

Members considered the process by which the NP would proceed, during which the following points were made.

There should be a public meeting to raise awareness in advance of the Questionnaire.

Local organisations should be approached directly (and not just by letter) - JBa volunteered to assist with this.

The leaflet was felt to be good; it should be sent to every resident of the area, setting out:

- * Why the NP is happening
- * Why it's important
- * How it ties in to other policies and structures
- * How it differs from the Parish Plan.

The scope of a NP needed to be identified. This was felt to include:

- * Housing
- * Business and Service viability and sustainability
- * The Environment
- * Education
- * Health.

It was pointed out that there had been a generational change from the past and the Parish Plan.

Changes in the funding arrangements for County and Borough Councils, and the withdrawal of Government funding by 2020, was likely to lead to Parish Councils becoming deliverers of services in ways which had not previously been the case.

It was important to emphasise that a Neighbourhood Plan is statutorily regulated - this gave it a weight which was valuable, but also required a sound methodology. At this stage Terms of Reference needed to be drawn up and approved by the PC to allow the Group to develop its work.

Other Staffordshire councils which were further along the process could share valuable experience.

Concern was expressed regarding the lack of timely progress.

JBe & MP would progress an Engagement Strategy within the next few days

FUTURE MEETINGS

7th June - to consider the draft formal letter for PC approval; the Community Engagement Strategy; and the Terms of Reference.

28th June.

ACTIONS:

JBe & MP - Formal Notification Letter PC to NULBC;

JBa, JBe & MP - Community Engagement Strategy

RH & GG - Terms of Reference

GG - SPCA Weekly e-mail

RH - to refine the draft leaflet.

Members as available - to attend Weston NP exhibition.