

Neighbourhood Development Plan Update

The Parish Assembly on the 23rd May brought about significant changes with regard to the Abbots Bromley Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). It was clear that many of the village were not satisfied with the NDP work to date, or at least feeling they had had an opportunity to input and be consulted in the process.

Since the meeting, the group chair resigned and a number of the group also stepped down from their roles. A huge amount has been achieved by this group and the Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank those who stood down for their considerable effort and hard work on the NDP. The Parish Council has taken the decision to appoint an independent Planning Consultant to initially take stock of the comments received and review the work that the NDP group have completed. It is important that we understand where there may be gaps in evidence or consultation so that we can make informed decisions to move the process forward. We hope to re-visit those areas of work that a consultant identifies in a targeted way to ensure that we move forward as quickly as possible. It is not the intention to start the plan from scratch or lose the good work and evidence already gathered. We anticipate that the consultant will complete a report with recommendations over the coming weeks which we will update you on once that process is clearer.

Given the resignations from the NDP group the Parish Council has also sought new volunteers to come forward and lead the process as part of a new group. At the time of writing we are pleased to announce the following have stepped forward:

Mike Hobbs – Chair, Peter Male – Vice Chair, Parish Councillor representative(s), Julie Wheeldon, Keith Baker, Rob Humphries, Chris Whorwood, Georgina Kelly, Greg Hall, supported by Tom Wheeldon as Secretary. The new look group have already met and are beginning the process of familiarising themselves with the work already carried out and ensuring that they can hit the ground running once the consultant has completed the report as previously mentioned. The Parish Council looks forward to supporting them and we hope that the community will help them as they work to bring a draft together.

This is a democratic process and before the draft plan is written (and voted on) there will be a number of consultation activities, in order that your feedback is considered, that we will publicise in this newsletter, on village notice boards and social media. We have also moved the neighbourhood plan agenda item to earlier in the monthly Parish Council meetings so that it is easier for villagers to attend and hear the discussions. Of course it is inevitable that through this process, people will have frustrations and we would ask that any member of the community who is unhappy or unsure about the Neighbourhood Plan to make contact with the Parish Council in the first instance, not only to ensure they are addressed, but so we are fully aware of them.

What has been clear in recent weeks is that as a community we wish to protect and enhance the Parish for the future. The Abbots Bromley Parish Neighbourhood Plan will provide us all with this assurance and we look forwards to your engagement in the process.