

MINUTES FROM NDP MEETING – 7pm CHURCH HOUSE 27th SEPTEMBER 2018

Attendance: Mike Hobbs **MH**; Julie Wheeldon **JW**; Rob Humphries **RH**; Georgina Kelly **GK**
Greg Hall **GH**;
Volunteer Sec: Tom Wheeldon **TW**

Apologies: Chris Whorwood **CW**; Peter Male **PM**; Keith Baker **KB**;

Other attendees: NIL

Due to the short notice, an Agenda for the meeting had not been circulated.

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

1. Apologies

As indicated above.

2. Update

The Draft ToR's for the NDPG have been approved at the Parish Council (PC) meeting on Wednesday 26th October 2018.

Up to this point the Neighbourhood Development Plan Group (NDPG) have been meeting regularly to familiarise themselves with the requirements for producing a Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

During this time, an Independent Consultant has been employed by the PC to report his findings for the work undertaken by the previous NDP Committee. The Consultant's report has now been presented to the PC and the NDPG.

The report confirms that whilst there has been much good work done to date, there are several areas which will need to be addressed further. For example, the site assessment criteria and the definition of whether sites are suitable, available and achievable, and the requirement to ensure that the process is described transparently.

Outcomes must be understood and supported by the community and be clear to the NP examiner.

The PC has now given approval for the NDPG to move on with the business of producing the Abbots Bromley Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

3. General Discussion

- a) **MH** Informed of the need to seek further recruitment to the NDPG.

ACTION: **GK** Produce a recruitment notice for inclusion in the November issue of the 'Bromley Bulletin'.

- b) **JW** Progress report to be produced in order to inform the public of progress to date, and the plans for moving forward. All committee members see this as a positive and necessary course of action.

ACTION: GK Produce a progress report for inclusion in the November 2018 issue of the 'Bromley Bulletin'; as well as in other available media prior to the issue of the Bulletin.

c) NDPG minutes are now readily appearing on the current Abbots Bromley Neighbourhood Plan website http://www.abbotsbromley.com/neighbourhood_plan
Eric Roy is thanked for his prompt response to support the NDPG in this vital area.

d) **JW** raised the question as to whether a new separate NDP website is necessary? Having 'tested' how quickly minutes can be uploaded and made available for the community over the last few weeks, it appears that they are able to be posted very promptly. Therefore if the site as a whole is fit for purpose, do we need to spend time designing and creating a new one?

ACTION: GK Audit the existing NDP website.

e) **MH** Informed that £100.00p cash float will be made available to the NDPG from the PC in order to support purchase of low cost items for the benefit of the Group's work. Further funding will be considered upon request.

f) **GH** Gave an explanation of the ESBC financial funding support for production of a Neighbourhood Plan.

It is understood that the PC is not supporting the NDPG through the Parish precept, but rather submitting invoices to the ESBC who have a central fund to support communities in the production of an NP.

ACTION: GH Investigate the current balance of funds available to the NDPG.

g) **MH** Advised that the downstairs room in the Church House would need to be made available to support safe public access on the occasions that the public are invited to attend the NDPG meetings. **This is currently planned for the 1st meeting of the month commencing in November, and will be confirmed to the public in advance.**

h) **MH** In order to gain more insight into ESBC planning requirements, it is recommended that a meeting with ESBC planning representatives is called as soon as possible.

A meeting is proposed for Thursday October 11th 2018 commencing at 6pm in Church House.

ACTION: MH Write to the PC to inform them of this decision and to request attendance of the PC.

ACTION: TW Invite ESBC planning representatives Anna Miller and Naomi Perry to attend.

4. Discussion on Independent Consultant's Report

JW Opened a discussion in relation to the Independent Consultant's report, inclusive of the proposed 'Options' he has recommended the NP consider.

a) **JW** Enquired as to whether any future review of the ESBC Local Plan (LP) would seek to increase the housing requirement if the NP robustly provides for housing to meet the local need.

- b) **MH** Summarised his opinion of the above enquiry in relation to satisfying the Local Plan requirement, and NOT going over the housing requirement without a benefit being brought to the community.
- c) **GH** Explained the ESBC Local Plan Policy for development and that any future review of the Local Plan may not necessarily focus on housing provision as this may not be required in the Borough as a whole.
- d) **GH** if can demonstrate that housing development meets the local need, then shouldn't be allocated any more homes
- e) **MH** Further emphasised his earlier point of the need to meet the requirements of the Local Plan without it being exceeded and no local community benefit being achieved.
He added that, "We must produce a Neighbourhood Plan around the directives of the Local Plan".
- f) **GH** Commented that although AB has built more houses than required in the current Local Plan period these do not count towards future proposed housing requirements in subsequent reviews of the LP.
- g) **GH** Believes that Rural Parishes receive favourable consideration in relation to ESBC Local Plan policy.
- h) **JW** It is essential that the NDPG engage effectively with parish residents in order to robustly investigate the local housing need. In order to inform the future NP Option, this data would need to be assessed alongside the data that is available reflecting the Borough wide housing need.
- i) **JW** Felt that the protracted timescales recommended in the Independent report was overly excessive (eg 18 – 24 months).
- j) **GH** Believes that it wouldn't take that long, although the amount of work/time applied to the production of a NP directly reflects the quality of the Plan.
- k) **MH** Proposed that a copy of the Independent report should be sent to the ESBC planning representatives prior to the planned meeting on Thursday 11th October 2018.

ACTION: **MH** Liaise with the PC to make arrangements for the Independent report to be made available to ESBC.

- l) **MH** Suggested that a series of questions be formulated to present to the ESBC planning representatives at the meeting on Thursday 11th October 2018.

ACTION: **ALL** Produce 3 questions for consideration by the group at the next NDPG meeting on Thursday 4th October 2018.

- m) **MH** Concluded the discussion with the following statement:-

"Once the NDPG have gathered sufficient information in relation to the Independent report 'Options' to proceed, the information must then be 'rolled out' to the Community for their consideration.

The Community's opinion is intrinsic to the process for deciding on the path to follow".

5. Agenda, date and time of next meeting

These minutes will inform the items for the next Agenda.

ACTION: MH to produce Agenda and distribute for comment at least 48hrs before the next meeting.

All **ACTION** points to be processed. If there are any problems in completing **ACTION's** get in touch with the committee for assistance ASAP.

Next meeting: Thursday 4th October 2018 – 7pm – Church House

ACTION: TW to book the room

With effect from November 2018, the public will be invited to attend the first NDP meeting of the month.

The NDPG minutes will inform of the date, time and venue.