

MINUTES FROM NDP MEETING – 7pm CHURCH HOUSE
25th April 2019

Attendance: Peter Male **PM**; Julie Wheeldon **JW**; Keith Baker **KB**; Rob Humphries **RH**

Apologies: Mike Hobbs **MH**; Georgina Kelly **GK**;

Other Attendees: Tom Wheeldon **TW** (Volunteer Secretary)

The Vice Chairman **PM** called the meeting to order.

The NDPG had not met on Thursday 11th April 2019 (due to unavailability of members) and did not meet on Thursday 18th April 2019 (as this was the day following the annual Parish Assembly on 17th April 2019 when the majority of the NDPG had been present).

1. Draft minutes for NDPG Public Session meeting 4th April 2019

The previous NDPG meeting minutes have been 'Approved' ahead of this meeting and appear on the NDP website.

TW gave an update on feedback that he had received from the Abbots Bromley Guides. This information is valuable for ensuring that the opinion of the young residents is taken in to account when formulating the Draft Plan. Whilst this information is a good basis to work from, the NDPG recognises the need to engage with young residents from other organisations (eg football club, cricket club and schools).

NDPG members recognise that young residents are probably more comfortable to share their opinions in their own environment, and will look to follow up with this initiative accordingly.

ACTION: ALL Discuss plans for the initiative to gather more young resident comments.

2. Report to PC Assembly 17th April 2019

PM provided a verbal brief to the annual Parish Assembly on 17th April 2019. The brief summarised the full NDPG report which is included in the Parish Assembly documentation. A copy of the summary is available on the following NDP website link under the heading 'News' www.abbotsbromley.com/neighbourhood_plan

3. Report of PC meeting 24th April 2019

JW provided a report of discussions held at the PC meeting.

a) **JW** reported that it was quite clear that a huge difference in opinion still exists between the PC and the current NDPG as to whether the Draft Plan that was being worked on in May 2018 would have succeeded at parish referendum (or indeed have been passed by the Independent Examiner).

b) Referring to a PC authorised Independent Consultant review of the Draft Plan being produced by the 2015-2018 NDP committee, Cllr Walters was firmly of the view that the report reflected, "*Just one opinion*". Cllr Walters stated that, "*whether the plan would have failed is a matter of conjecture. The idea that it would have failed is stretching the point*".

c) Cllr Appleby pointed out that in May 2018 the Draft Plan hadn't been finished, and the report provided at the 2018 Parish Assembly was a commentary on the work up to that time.

KB referred to a meeting that he had attended with AB School shortly after joining the earlier NDP committee in March 2018. He and others had at the time been invited to look at detailed development plans that had been produced by the school.

KB stated that, *"In relation to Cllr Walters's assertion that the initial Draft Plan could have been accepted. It would most certainly have meant that Abbots Bromley would by now be facing the prospect of 70+ new homes being built on the 'Anglesey' land". "Furthermore, the Woodard Group would have probably still gone ahead with the proposed closure of the school"?*

KB stated that the above referenced meeting with the school gave him the impression that the proposed development was considered acceptable by the other members of the NDP committee (except for some minor detail relating to the labelling of 2 in No. proposed commercial premises)?

KB went on to say that he had asked a number of times for minutes to be produced of these conversations, but to date no such minutes had been published.

The Parish Councillors who were NDP committee members at that time, explained that they had been frustrated by the school plans not being what *'we as a group wanted'* and they would have, *"kept returning to the school for new plans to be produced until satisfied"*.

d) Cllr Appleby went on to provide an NDP update to the Cllrs which included confirmation that the 'Locality' Funding portal was not yet open; that once it was an offer had kindly been extended by the NDPG to assist with the completion of the online application; that the application form itself had been fully agreed during a very positive meeting between the PC sub-group and the NDPG on 3rd April 2019.

Current Position

Following the recent decision by all 9 Parish Councillor's 'not to stand' for re-election, we will all have to wait to see how the liaison between the Parish Council and NDPG continues. The introduction of the PC sub-group was very much welcomed by the NDPG as a positive step forward, and an effective way of working that would enable the NDP to be more readily produced.

4. Progress update on 'Locality' funding application and Independent Consultant support

The Government remains firmly committed to providing funding for NDP's. The Locality Funding portal will be opened following the local council elections (to be held 2nd May 2019).

a) **JW** confirmed that following the PC and NDPG sub group meeting on 3rd April 2019, she had enquired of the PC (letter dated 4th April 2019) as to the possibility of instructing the Independent Consultant to start an 'initial' piece of work on the plan. On 23rd April 2019 the NDPG received confirmation from the PC that surplus funds were available to cover the cost of the 'initial' work; and the Independent Consultant could be instructed to commence work accordingly.

b) **JW** presented a draft letter of instruction to the Independent Consultant for consideration by the group. Subject to minor amendment it was agreed that it should be sent to the nominated Consultant ASAP.

ACTION: **TW** forward amended letter of instruction to nominated Consultant to conduct 'initial' work.

5. 'Quiet Lanes'

PM gave an update on conversations with the Highways Dept in relation to the topic of 'Quiet Lanes' which was brought up at a recent NDPG (Public Session).

There are currently no 'Quiet Lanes' in Staffordshire. There was an attempt a couple of years ago to introduce some at the nearby community of Longdon. The exercise was never completed following a change in local leadership. The Highways Dept contact will look at the situation. **PM** will follow this up and report to the NDPG.

6. NDPG meeting (Public Session) 2nd May 2019

Discussions continued on upcoming NDPG meeting (Public Session) to explore the topic of 'Housing Need'.

KB Proposed that a clear strategy should be adopted on the evening in order to maximise the public responses. All group members are aware of individual responsibilities for making relevant reports on the evening.

ACTION: **KB** Formulate a strategy for discussion at the 2nd May 2019 Public Session.

7. ACTION Grid

The ACTION Grid was reviewed and updated.

ACTION: **GK** Provide update on the FAQ document, with a view to uploading to the NDP website as a reviewable document.

ACTION: **TW** to obtain 'Glossary of Terms' document and upload to NDP website.

ACTION: **TW** contact ESBC to enquire about 'Article 4' Planning Legislation, and whether it can be applied to AB School site. Additionally, enquire whether any of AB School site could be classified as a 'Community Asset'.

8. 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: (Public Session) 2nd May 2019 – 7pm – Church House

ACTION: **TW** to book the room.

THE NEXT PUBLIC SESSION WILL BE ON THURSDAY 2nd MAY 2019

7pm CHURCH HOUSE.

THE TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION WILL BE:

'HOUSING NEEDS'