

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Blewbury Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

held in the Melland Room on Monday 14 April 2014

**Present:** Nick Chancellor, Richard Farrell, Vanessa Fox, Joe Goyder, Jo Lakeland, Dermot Mathias, Andrew Maxted, Pat Mattimore, Anne Millman, Alex Musson, Caroline O'Connell, John Ogden

**Apologies:** Ian Bacon, Angela Hoy, Katherine Macdonald\*, Mike Marshall, Anton Nath , Kally Peigne , Gwyn Rees

- 1 DM welcomed Anne Millman.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting.** DM has met with Christina and Brian Duckett.

IB has done a time-line, which will be distributed.

3. **Launch event.** NC has collated the information gathered on 8 March. Salient points:

### *Appreciation*

Sense of community  
Mix of different people  
Defined village envelope  
Green spaces  
Shops to be preserved at all costs  
Footpaths  
No street lighting

### *Concerns*

Parking problems  
Transport – buses etc  
No agreement on whether development should be in-fill or on the edge of the village.  
Drainage  
Better care for the elderly, assisted living?

4. **Site identification** The Local Plan does not seem to be imposing large-scale site allocation in Blewbury; and small-scale in-fill makes little difference to the five-year allocation.

It might be possible to specify that any development or in-filling should be compatible with Blewbury's perceived housing needs. A small development on the edge of the village will not be an insurance against in-filling, as each application is judged on its merit. A landscape assessment might help. IB will lead with support from DM and JO (?)

IB, DM,  
JO?

RF to think about the timetable for this.

CO is prepared to contribute to the site identification survey.

5. **Housing needs.**

RF has spoken about Housing Needs Survey to Anton, who gave him Hook Norton's Neighbourhood Plan Survey Report as an example. ORCC process the data (but can't do it until June). RF, NC, JG and Anne M to work on this. It's important to get the views of a full cross-section of the community. One survey or two? Anne M to prepare a document for the subgroup also to be vetted by Anton. First draft ready to be finalised at next meeting (12 May).

RF  
NC,JG,  
Anne M

Alex M suggested announcing the housing needs survey ahead of time in the Bulletin and on the website, to give people time to think about it. JL suggested advertising it at the May Fair (10 May). Make it clear that there will be other opportunities for people to air their views.

6. **Living in the Village.** Demographics, trends, employers' needs, school issues, Thames Water's plans for the drains. What is the impact on planning issues? JG, PM and GR to liaise.

JG, PM,  
GR

7. **Sustainability.** MM, IB, JL, Alex M. Very wide subject: understanding the impact and influence of outside influences.

MM, IB,  
JL, Alex  
M

8. **Website.** JL responsible with Eric Eisenhandler and KP. JL said she didn't feel qualified to write, but happy to compile. It needs to have frequent updates and news – and feedback. No movement on Facebook – needs to be used more. NC to prepare a document about what was gleaned at the Launch, RF will send the PC's response to the Local Plan, DM a piece about the money received as a grant. Photos and short pieces about the core group members. Look at other Neighbourhood Plan websites.

JL, EE,  
KP  
  
NC, RF,  
DM

9. **Communications and engagement.** Anne M and KP to be in charge.

AnneM,  
KP

10. **Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment - SHLAA** – Landowners have not yet been consulted at this stage.

11. **Landscape assessment.** It would make sense to commission a landscape architect to assess what would make the least impact on the landscape. Brian Duckett has sent the one prepared for Ardingly, Sussex, as an example. He would be prepared to do one for Blewbury. Also ask Anthony Stiff?

12. **The Green May Fair (at the School).** Website on a screen on display – or Powerpoint presentation. At least use the posters prepared for the Launch. Volunteers, to speak to people? Anne M offered vox-pops with hand-held mikes. Flyer about what's likely to happen? Or postcards, to be returned to the post office? Set-up from 9.30.

ALL

**Date of next meeting:** Monday 12 May at 7.30 pm in the Melland Room.  
Apologies Alex Musson.