

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Planning Group meeting – 24th October 2018.

Present: Gill Williams, Les Masters, George Scott.

Support: Marian Barber, Parish Clerk

Apologies: Anne Selway, Andy Scarisbrick, Carolyn Scott

1. The Group looked at the application form for Locality grant funding for this financial year. The form asks what has been done to date and the following statement was agreed:

Discussions regarding a Neighbourhood Plan restarted in August 2018 with a public meeting to gauge support, which was positive. We advertised for residents to join a steering group. The first members have agreed the terms of reference. Two meetings have been held. We have met with the LPA to understand scope and needs.

The form asks what we plan in general for the village:

Projects at present include the upgrading of our Play Area and Allotments, enhancing the planting, seats and signage prior to entering Britain In Bloom, supporting local groups to work on public footpaths and environmental enhancements. We are keen to improve amenities for older people as well as ensuring young people are able to continue to live in the village; housing that meets their needs is essential.

A key element of neighbourhood planning is whether there should be any new housing and if so, then what would be acceptable. The Group agreed that 25 new homes was a reasonable increase (namely 5%) and would not impact negatively on existing social or physical infrastructure. The form asks what housing we propose allocating:

As an infill village there is no housing allocation in the Local Plan. However, we recognise the need for new housing, particularly for younger people.

There are around 500 homes in the village and we believe that an increase of 5% is reasonable and sustainable, given the current infrastructure and other constraints.

The form asks about site availability for housing. What information have you already gathered about these sites?:

We have only anecdotal evidence of the potential availability of sites. The call for sites and initial discussion is part of this grant application and will lead to a formal process of site appraisal in the next stage of the project 2019-2020.

There is an option to produce design codes for any new housing:

We aim to have housing that fits with the historic and rural character of the village and enhances the special landscape in which it sits. We also want lifelong housing that enables young people and families to stay in the village.

The form asks why we need a grant and what we will do with it:

We are a small parish with a limited budget. To progress the Neighbourhood Plan and maximise resident engagement we need grant support to enable us to reach the whole community through publicity, consultation and public meetings. The work we undertake using the grant this financial year will begin to build the evidence base for support and for proposals.

The information from the meetings and the Questionnaire, both quantitative and qualitative, is essential as a first stage in progressing the Plan, forming a secure platform on which to build the Plan. The call for sites in particular will enable us to start work on site appraisals and design code with the support of experts and the LPA.

It was agreed that the Group would apply for grant aid for setting up a dedicated website; printing leaflets; printing a questionnaire and processing responses; room hire for public meetings; and general publicity. All spend to be completed by 31st March 2019. There were two quotes received to set up and manage a website and the lower quote was accepted subject to the grant application being successful.

It was also agreed that a grant application for further support from 1 April 2019 would be made in due course.

It is a requirement of the Locality grant that the Parish Council manage the grant so Marian agreed to complete and submit the application for the Group.

2. The Group looked at the meeting schedule and agreed the following dates, all Wednesdays: 5 Dec, 2 Jan 2019, 30 Jan, 27 Feb, 13 March. Meetings take place in a Group member's house.

3. It was agreed that Gill would place an article in the next Bleadon Village News, due out end of November, letting every household know what was going on and asking for more volunteers to be in the Group.

The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday, 5th December 2018, at Gill's house.

Contacts:

Marian Barber, Parish Clerk, parishclerk@bleadonparishcouncil.co.uk
07453 358318

Gill Williams, NPG Chairman, gwilliams28@btinternet.com
01934 813255