

Broadwindsor Group Parishes, Neighbourhood Plan Meeting Minutes

7:30 PM 5th December 2016, Blackdown Village Hall

1. Welcome and apologies

Rowland Hibbard welcomed members and apologies were received on behalf of David Chumbley, Tim Marshall and Brian Ridley.

Present were: Rowland Hibbard (Chair), Tim Bassett, Steve Chubb, Martin Coulson, Prue Davies, Bob Harris, Brian Hesketh (taking minutes in the absence of David Chumbley), Jacqui Sewell, John Wallis and Jo Witherden. Also present, as observers from Marshwood Neighbourhood Plan team were: David Hitchcock and Charles Somers.

2. Minutes of last meeting (19 Sept)

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed after one change, being the date of this meeting.

3. Matters arising

All matters arising are dealt with under agenda headings

4. Correspondence and Notices

Two letters had been received.

4.1 From Barbara and Brian Hedditch, initially to Parish Council. This was read out to the meeting by Tim Bassett. The letter put forward their idea, discussed with CLT group members, including David Leader, for a mixture of houses including affordable, shared equity, starter and homes for the over 55s (to downsize) and some open market housing be built in a small development, including open spaces, trees, seats and so on. The letter stated their concern that the CLT option becomes seen as the only option we have, and that does not go far enough in meeting the needs of the village. A discussion followed, including the importance of the questionnaire in determining what the villages need and want. Jacqui advised the meeting on the local authority strict control of development and that the main route for meeting local development needs is through Neighbourhood Planning.

4.2 From Tim and Christina Marshall. This raised their concern about the CLT meeting having been held and a show of hands requested, in advance of the NP questionnaire being distributed and results gathered and analysed.

It was agreed to minute having received both letters and to hold them on file, as at this stage we have yet to make a decision about the amount, type and location of housing needed.

Rowland welcomed the fact that we are receiving feedback and reaction.

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5. Treasurers report and invoices for payment

5.1 Footprintz printers: for questionnaires, distribution slips and letters: £498.40

5.2 Blackdown Village Hall: £50.00

The meeting agreed both payments. After paying those two we shall have £3,273.83p. It was agreed that this will meet the invoices from Jo for the cost of consultancy work.

6. Grant progress

Funding from now to the end of March, needs to be applied for by 27th January and later for onward funding.

7. Consultation Summary

This is intended to provide an account of progress, some of which has been written up by Martin and he agreed to add to it after this meeting.

8. Questionnaire Results Discussion

The questionnaire results, having been circulated 2 weeks in advance of the meeting, were thrown open to discussion. Reflections on the results had been drafted by Brian in neutral terms to assist the committee in reading the findings.

Question from Bob about the number of household questionnaires and how many additional questionnaires were requested, no more than a handful of further questionnaires had been requested. 37 people had ticked the box indicating that they were in a household where other people may have completed a questionnaire. Bob wondered how the 37 affected the response rate and if having the views of more than one person in a household may skew the results. It was noted that we have no way of knowing what discussions may have gone on within individual households. The questionnaire was offered to anyone who wished to complete it (as indicated in the first paragraph of the covering letter). Jo noted that responses from families will vary between agreement and differing views. She observed that the 37 are only about 10% of the number of responses and will not skew it disproportionately. With any questionnaire, with a response rate above 50% you can be relatively comfortable with the results she said.

It was noted that, generally, text responses, whilst they can tease out information which may otherwise be missed in the questionnaire, in most cases had few responses and care should be taken that a few such comments do not overshadow the greater number of graded responses given.

Each question was then considered in turn with the following amendments to the commentary agreed:

Q8: Respondents indicated that existing employment sites are sufficient to meet the needs of the parish. [**ACTION:** Brian]

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Q13. There was clear opposition to the NDP including additional sites for open market housing development. [**ACTION:** Brian]

Q 36 label, amend Safer footpaths to Safer footpaths/pavements [**ACTION:** Brian]

Steve observed that the questionnaire puts us into the position of writing a plan to prioritise what people value and support. Jo warned that the NP cannot say no to open market housing within a defined development boundary.

There was discussion about looking deeper into the data to examine, for example, responses by household type or age. Jo advised that where this has been done it had not come up with significant differences. It was also noted that in some cases this could take it down to quite a small, and therefore less reliable and representative sample.

Jo advised that we are now in a position to feed something back to the community, so that they can see the results of the questionnaire exercise.

Prue observed, to agreement, that as the questionnaire is self-reporting, we shall need to use official sources where reliable statistics are needed, for example census and local authority information.

Brian agreed to write an executive summary of the main results. [**ACTION:** Brian] [*Copy added to end*]

9. Business survey progress

The business survey data had been input along with the main questionnaires and the results passed to Bob for analysis, together with photocopies of each completed business questionnaire.

5 spreadsheets were distributed: The business questionnaire containing responses, list of business types and employees, the locality of customers, list of respondents advocating improved broadband, list of respondents advocating improved mobile phone signal and 9 respondents' text responses.

The significant points drawn out at this stage are that 42 of the 77 employees live in the parish, that just over 71% indicated that they work from home. Hardly any were looking for commercial or industrial premises in the area (5.77%), whilst 7.69% said their business is thinking of leaving the area. Improved mobile connection and faster broadband speed were the two most strongly supported means of enhancing business or promoting employment.

A full summary will be written by Tim and Bob when their work is complete, having been held up by sparse data submitted by one of the most significant employers in the area. [**ACTION:** Bob and Tim]

10. Facilities

A list of amenities will be needed: the things people use and which are important for the community to protect and continue to be able to use. Jo advocated local knowledge as the best source and

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members agreed to send a list to attach to these minutes. [**ACTION:** All Members of committee] [*See list, at end*]

11. Employment possibilities

Whilst we now have a clearer picture from the questionnaire responses of attitudes to employment, a scoping exercise will be required, as this is something which can be covered in the NP.

12. Environmental issues

Strategic environmental assessment will be a task to undertake after the Vision and Objectives are agreed.

13. Addendum items from Jo Witherden

Vision and Objectives. Now that views have been obtained through meetings and the questionnaire, we are in a position to begin drafting the vision and objectives, from which the detail in the plan will flow. Brian and Prue agreed to write a draft vision statement. [**ACTION:** Brian & Prue] [*Copy attached at end*]

Housing and recreation land: it will be necessary to focus on the level and type, followed by location.

It was agreed that the next meeting will be a workshop, run by Jo, to assist in tackling these issues, under the heading of Housing and Environment. [**ACTION:** All committee and Jo]

14. Any other business. None

15. Date, time and venue for next meeting

7:30 pm, Wednesday 18th January, at Netherhay Chapel

Addenda

Item 8

Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire – a quick look at some results

This is a summary of the results, a longer description of the results, with graphs to help picture them, will be posted online (<http://broadwindsorgroup.gov.uk/community/neighbourhood-plan>). Look out on the Drimpton and Broadwindsor Facebook pages too. (Contact: broadwindsornp@gmail.com)

Things which people find important and which make this a special place

Facilities for sport, leisure and recreation; good school facilities; good social life and community spirit and neighbourliness; local services and shops, the distinctive character of villages and buildings, the landscape and scenery and being an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

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Traffic, Transport and Accessibility

There is dissatisfaction with both parking and safety for cyclists and walkers, and by far the greatest number of written suggestions were about speed and weight or size of vehicles.

There was clear support for increasing the number of passing places, but not increased street lighting.

Employment and Economy

Protect existing employment sites, allow conversion of existing buildings to employment use and encourage home working.

Housing

Sites for houses for sale on the open market and sites for private rental were not supported. However, adaptable, shared ownership and housing association homes all attracted support.

Comments suggested affordable housing for local, young people, and improving infrastructure.

1 or 2 bedroom homes for first time buyers was the most strongly supported option.

Most additional comments, suggested that development should be related to community needs, and others: the use of brownfield sites, starter homes, eco-friendly and self build housing.

Sizes of development

There was clear opposition to having larger development sites, but having more sites with fewer houses was supported.

Housing growth in the foreseeable future

Most disagreed that there should be less growth than happened previously, the strongest support was to continue the average rate of development (about 5 per year).

Affordable local homes through a CLT?

Support for a CLT across the Broadwindsor Group Parish was very strong. Drimpton and Netherhay results (where a proposed site for a CLT development has been suggested at Netherhay Lane) were also strongly supportive, with over two thirds of Drimpton/Netherhay respondents in favour.

Housing needs?

Most reported no need, the next highest number (42) was for smaller property to downsize.

Other Comments and Suggestions

There were 62 final additional comments, mainly about speeding and road safety more generally, safer pavements and footpaths, affordable housing for locals and public transport links (though few people reported using public transport).

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Young people had their say

20 questionnaires carried comments in the section for young people. More than half dealt with the provision of play and recreation facilities, including making them appropriate to different age groups, so that, for example, younger children didn't feel intimidated playing in areas used by older children.

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Facilities/Amenities

Footpaths and signs

Traditional Dorset Signposts and road signs

Pubs in Drimpton & Broadwindsor

Village halls Drimpton, Broadwindsor, Blackdown

Football pitch Drimpton

Cricket pitch Broadwindsor

Hursey common

Allotments

Play areas Drimpton & Broadwindsor

Village community shop Broadwindsor

Churches including the graveyards

Notice boards

Blackdown Village Hall and Church

Kittwhistle Garage

Village Hall

Association Football Pitch

Children's Play Area

Public Telephone Box

Public House - The Royal Oak

Skittle Alley

C of E Church

Methodist Chapel and Studio

Public Footpaths and styles

Broadwindsor playgrounds (at Hursey Common and Bernard's Field);

Community Shop; sadly deceased Church Room for the elderly, Broadwindsor Square (i.e., we need something similar....);

village community halls;

Broadwindsor cricket pitch;

footpaths, clearly marked and maintained;

Hursey Common;

post boxes;

allotments;

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churches (could they be better used?)

The Community Room at Netherhay Chapel

Historic and scenic footpaths in the parish

For example:

The Green Way footpath

The Monarch's Way

Wessex Ridgeway

Jubilee Trail

Dorset's highest hills, Pilsdon Pen and Lewesdon Hill

Benches to sit and stare (eg Netherhay Chapel).

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Our vision is that during the next twenty years residents will have enough suitable and environmentally friendly homes, which fit into the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which they value so highly; and that there will be good schools, safe roadways and support for local employment and local services which ensure that all ages, in every part of our parish, are able to enjoy life to the full.