

Biddulph Neighbourhood Planning Working Group Meeting Thursday 6 September 2017

Attendees

Councillor Graeme Court	Biddulph Town Council - Vice Chair
Councillor Ken Harper	Biddulph Town Council
Sarah Haydon	Biddulph Town Council
Sue Fletcher	Poolfold Residents
Angela Turner	Resident
Philippa Walley	Resident

1. Apologies

Councillor Jim Davies	Biddulph Town Council
Councillor Dave Hawley	Biddulph Town Council- Chair
Councillor Oliver McGuinness	Biddulph Town Council
Bob Hart	Biddulph North Community Association
Bill Hockey	Resident
Andrea Millington	Resident

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Notes from last meeting (10 August 2017) and Matters Arising

The notes were signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Sue Fletcher wanted to clarify purpose of the questionnaire that would be sent to all residents. Was it a) to gather information or b) to validate what we know?

The Chief Officer noted that this was an information gathering process. The findings of this would help to develop policies, which would then be tested again through further consultation of the draft document. This would be discussed further as part of item 5.

The Chief Officer gave an update about the website. Specific information should be sent to Chris Lunt, and the group needed to decide on a domain name. www.mybiddulph.co.uk is available. A vote was taken and all agreed that this is a good name for the website and could then be used again for further projects.

4. Grant Application Update

The Chief Officer gave an update on the grant application. £9,000 had been received from Locality to support the work of the consultant. There was a separate process to go through to commission the Technical Support. It seemed likely that the group could be supported with masterplanning and housing need/ design, initially. The Chief Officer would provide further information about this process as it progressed. There would be no cost for completing this work, but the group would be required to support the consultants. The findings could then become part of the Plan. All agreed that this was a positive step.

5. Consideration of questions for draft questionnaire

The Chief Officer noted that Hannah Barter from Urban Vision would be discussing the questionnaire with the group on Thursday 5 November. Consideration should be given to possible questions in advance of this meeting.

Sue Fletcher noted that Hannah had said there should be a short 4-sided questionnaire. Sue felt that this was good advice; questions should be worded carefully and be precise/targeted.

The questions from the Housing Need and Design Group were circulated to give an idea about how questions could be structured.

Sue Fletcher liked the different formats of questions. Philippa Walley felt that this keeps people 'switched on'.

Angie Turner queried whether an online version could have more questions than the paper version.

Councillor Court noted that there are some common areas across all groups.

There was discussion about the format of the questionnaire. Members felt that having a general section at the start of the questionnaire could prove beneficial, with specific questions to follow; perhaps 2/3 questions per group.

Philippa Walley queried whether we could put more detail behind the questions on the website: 'things you may want to consider before answering'.

Sue Fletcher wondered whether an accompanying pamphlet might prove beneficial. This could be collected from the library (for example).

Angie Turner queried whether anyone else was considering flooding.

Councillor Court thought that the Infrastructure group might be touching on this.

It was agreed that the Chief Officer would look to develop questions for the general section, and would pull together other ideas.

Councillor Court queried how the questionnaire would be distributed.

The Chief Officer confirmed that the *Biddulph Times* would be the main vehicle for getting this into households in the town.

Sue Fletcher felt that we need to establish who they don't distribute to.

The Chief Officer will ask about the gaps and also investigate Survey Monkey.

Councillor Court noted that we could hold 'library days' when we support people to fill in the questionnaire.

Councillor Harper stated that we should also target residents associations.

There was discussion about whether we should ask questions about the greenbelt; this is a controversial issue. All agreed that this was relevant. Angie Turner also noted that

her group would consider other words than 'environment', as this word didn't encourage engagement.

There was a further discussion about whether the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group should comment on the Local Plan, or whether this should be done separately by individuals.

The Chief Officer would contact Councillor Hawley for his view. If a Group response should be submitted, she would contact the Group Leaders.

Sue Fletcher wondered whether data from other work areas may be useful. Consultation had been completed in relation to the Country Park. The Chief Officer would forward the responses to Sue for her consideration.

6. Dates of next meeting

The following meetings were arranged:

28 September, 6.30 pm - Neighbourhood Plan consultant training event/ workshop. A projector would be needed for this meeting.

5 October, 6.30 pm - Working Group meeting, focussing on finalising the questionnaire.

All meetings will be held in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Signed Date