

**Biddulph Neighbourhood Planning Working Group Meeting Wednesday
8 February 2017**

1. Attendees

Councillor Dave Hawley	Biddulph Town Council Chair
Councillor Graeme Court	Biddulph Town Council Vice Chair
Councillor Wayne Rogers	Biddulph Town Council
Councillor Oliver McGuinness	Biddulph Town Council
Sue Fletcher	Poolfold Residents
Bob Hart	Biddulph North Community Association
Sarah Haydon	Biddulph Town Council
Bill Hockey	Resident
Andrea Millington	Biddulph North Resident
Angela Turner	Biddulph North Resident
Hal Wilson	Resident
Alistair McLoughlin-Goldstraw	Resident
Joyce Tagell	Resident
Chris Perkin	Resident

2. Apologies

Councillor Liz Nicosia	Biddulph Town Council
Philippa Walley	Resident
Chris Lunt	Resident

3. Declarations of Interest

None were declared

4. Notes from last meeting (11 January 2017) and Matters Arising

All agreed that the notes were an accurate record of the meeting.

Dave Hawley stated that he would no longer be writing to the Chronicle with an update; the Group Leaders meeting had proposed that Erin Lyons would be invited to interview them about the neighbourhood plan, which would hopefully lead to a full article in the paper.

5. Group Leaders Meeting Update (actions log circulated)

Dave Hawley ran through the list of actions that had arisen at the meeting.

6. Consultation event on 8 April 2017

The idea of having a consultation event had arisen at the Group Leaders meeting. Members had begun to think about what to put in a questionnaire, and felt that it would be better to get feedback on emerging views, and then to add options to a questionnaire for people to consider. There would be six large maps in a room and each group would ask people to identify issues or to comment on specific ideas.

There was a discussion about the best day of the week for this type of consultation event. A weekend would attract those that worked in the week, but Saturdays are quiet days in town.

It was suggested, and agreed, that there should be two events: Friday 7 April and Saturday 8 April, both mornings. This would attract market-goers on the Friday and those that worked in the week on the Saturday.

It was agreed that there should be widespread publicity and an advert in the Chronicle and lots of signage on the day.

Sarah Haydon would confirm with SMDC that the Town Hall is available on these dates/times, due to building work.

Andrea Millington felt that there should be crafts for the children and a raffle, to attract people.

All agreed it was important to make the distinction between the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan in the publicity.

7. Update on Theme Group meetings

Housing Need and Design

The group had met again and considered the questions that they wished to ask. They had agreed to move away from 'yes'/'no' answers, and to develop more options.

There was a discussion about the need to include, within the Neighbourhood Plan, the needs of an ageing population. There was agreement that the Neighbourhood Plan could not determine a specification, but should consider the housing mix.

Promoting the Local Economy

The Group's brief has been defined as "Promoting manufacturing and commercial/professional businesses and retail trade". It is recognised that the work may compliment that of other groups, especially tourism. The group have been considering several key ideas: pedestrianisation, housing within walking distance of the town, signage on the A527, a 'sexy' website, free car parking, involving the Biddulph Business Chamber, moving the day the market is held, etc.

There was a discussion about the need to 'test' pedestrianisation.

Preserving Local Heritage, Culture and Tourism

The next meeting is planned. At this meeting they will be using what has been developed so far to create a questionnaire and issues for consultation.

Community and Wellbeing

Andrea Millington is working to develop a community directory, and working closely with the Infrastructure group. There are so many questions about future service

provision and this means there is some way to go before a questionnaire can be developed.

Natural Environment and Green Spaces

The Wildlife Trust have provided information and highlighted that less than 20% of the area is mapped; there is no information at the central records centre. The group have prioritised the areas that need to be mapped, and are considering the 'urban fringe' first. Quotes for this work have been requested. This will help to form questions and consult on biodiversity options. The group have created a press release to request that the public help to map wildlife and ancient trees. There is a strategic side to this work and they are also hoping to engage local people too. Sue Fletcher has agreed to collect/ input any data.

Improving Infrastructure

Alastair McLoughlin-Goldstraw is working on a specification for infrastructure. There will be a group meeting in the next couple of weeks.

8. Neighbourhood Plan Vision and Objectives

A draft document was circulated for consideration.

Each group should look at the vision and ensure that this fits with the emerging objectives. It was agreed that it is important to have a draft vision and objectives for the 7/8 April consultations. Sarah Haydon will email this round.


9. General Update

Bill Hockey had set up a Dropbox for Leaders to share information. There was a short discussion about this.

It was agreed that minutes of the group meetings would not be included in Dropbox, but that meetings should be recorded and then these notes forwarded to Sarah Haydon to be stored. It is not necessary to add the group minutes to the website.

10. Date of next meeting Wednesday 8th March 2017

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed  Date 8/3/17