

**MINUTES OF MEETING NO 33  
OF THE BOURTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP  
HELD AT THE ANNEX AT 7.30pm ON MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2015**

**Present:** M Withers, P Withers, P Overington, G Overington, A Scott, D Scott, N Hall,  
B Martin

**Apologies:** F Gillett

**15.01 Minutes of Meeting No 32**

It was noted that the Declarations of Interest had been accidentally omitted from the last minutes. It should be noted that NH as a member of the VHMC and MW & PW as neighbours of the VHMC's preferred new village hall site had declared personal interests. With this exception the minutes were accepted as a true record.

**15.02 Matters Arising**

**Item 14.145.** AS had done some research on how many of the government's Neighbourhood Plan front runners had been passed or rejected. She reported that, from the 200+ front runners, by December 2014, only 25 had completed and been passed - all of which had a 90+% 'yes' vote at referendum. Of the rest, many were in the process of submitting a final draft Plan.

However, a large number had not been started due to difficulty agreeing the Plan area or finding a group of people to do the work. Others had given up or were starting again due to:

- a. The local/district council Plan having not being adopted.
- b. Being failed by the examiner.
- c. Opposition to the Plan by a small but vociferous minority.

A significant number of plans just seem to have "disappeared" and one group gave up after "three tortuous years of consultation, conflict and confusion".

**Item 14.146.** BM had circulated the judge's summary on the Tattenhall NP and this would now be included on the agenda for the meeting with NDDC.

**15.03 Declarations of Interest**

NH as a member of the VHMC. MW & PW as neighbours of the VHMC's preferred new village hall site.

## 15.04 SA/SEA

There had been a series of emails between Liz Beth of Planning Aid and NDDC planning policy officers about the way forward. The current agreed route is for URS to examine and comment on NDDC's Scoping Report and send it back, through MW, to NDDC. NDDC will then send the Scoping Report to the Statutory Consultees only for their comments. At this stage the NPG will meet with NDDC and Planning Aid to discuss the next stages.

These will include the preparation of the SEA and site selection using the criteria set out in the Scoping Report and drafting the NP itself with help from Planning Aid/URS. When the draft is completed it will be sent to NDDC for their comments before being widely sent out for public consultation for six weeks, prior to it going to public examination. This will mean that there will not be two six-week periods for consultation, just the one. This should mean that the programme for completing the draft NP and going out to referendum will remain as summer 2015, as previously reported.

DS made the point that N Cardnell of NDDC had said in an email to Planning Aid that the Bourton Neighbourhood Plan was focused principally on the delivery of a new village hall. DS felt that this misconception should be corrected and it should be made clear that the NP is about the future of the whole village, of which the village hall is just a component. AS pointed out that the new village hall had not been on the NPG's agenda until NDDC said that it should be over a year ago. MW suggested that this issue could be raised at the forthcoming meeting with NDDC.

There was discussion about ensuring that the NP was robust with ample evidence to support each policy we propose. It was also agreed that we should consider putting a timescale on the proposal to review the plan in the light of events around housing sites with planning consent e.g. if those consents are not implemented. DS said that in the Tattenhall NP they had said that their plan was a "living document" and it would be reviewed every five years. This would also be discussed at the meeting with NDDC, along with whether or not a specific number of houses are allocated on any site.

There was also a discussion about the provision of a map within the NP showing treasured views. This had been raised and accepted in the VDS and it was thought that the original VDS plan, and any updated evidence from the first questionnaire, should be plotted on a map to be included in the plan. It was agreed to discuss how many views should be included with Planning Aid and NDDC.

DS produced a map with sites of environmental interest marked, which he had thought might accompany a narrative on the Natural Environment in the NP. He queried whether such a map should be incorporated in the SA/SEA. It was agreed that this should be discussed with NDDC who might assist with the production of an appropriate illustration.

### **15.05 Policy Writing**

BM said that it would be necessary to have our draft plan prepared in advance of the SEA in order to inform the SEA selection process. BM said that he thought we were in quite a good position on policies and he would send out an updated draft to group members for comment. He again made it clear that any policy must have sufficient justification and evidence to support it. MW said that this draft was important and that the group should look at it carefully and critically, including consideration of which maps and diagrams to include.

BM said that in his view, the plan should be, effectively, an executive summary, with the explanation and justification being within the SEA i.e. it should be a statement of our decisions. MW thought that it should include some narrative for the benefit of residents who need sufficient information presented within the document itself to demonstrate the justification for the policies and on which to base their vote for or against the NP.

The question of the consultation process was discussed and what should happen after we had considered any comments and, perhaps, amended the plan. It was thought that there would only be a need for widespread re-consultation if there was a major change to the plan resulting from the first consultation. This would be confirmed at the meeting with NDDC.

### **15.06 Programme**

There was no change envisaged to the programme.

### **15.07 Budget/Funding**

GO had prepared a final statement of account which would be used in MW's final report to the Communities Development Foundation. It would be necessary to meet with the parish clerk to arrange for a cheque to be drawn to repay unspent funds totalling £3,547.56.

### **15.08 Any Other Business**

MW reported that there was to be a meeting at the Mill site with Stuart Caundle, NDDC's solicitor, to discuss the dangerous state of the derelict site and buildings on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> Jan at 11.00am.

DS said that he had seen a reference to "Stalbridge Park" in the draft Scoping Report. MW said that there were other clear mistakes and asked that everyone send a note of those errors to him and he would send them on to NDDC.

BM said that, in addition to the necessary Consultation Statement, which PW had drafted, there was a need under the NP regulations for a Basic Conditions Statement. It was agreed that URS would be asked if they could help with this.

**15.09 Date of Next Meeting** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 7.30pm at Sandways Farm.