

Bridgnorth Plan Steering Group

Minutes of Meeting – 5th May 2020

Held as a Zoom videoconference commencing at 7 pm.

Present: Sarah Barlow – Deputy Mayor-elect, Bridgnorth Town Council
Henry Carver
David Cooper – Bridgnorth Town Council
Clive Dyson – Steering Group Chairman
Mike Golding
Darren Hodson
Susan Howle – Vice Chairman, Tasley Parish Council
Kirstie Hurst-Knight – Mayor-elect, Bridgnorth Town Council
Karen Sawbridge - Bridgnorth Town Council
Sally Themans
Gary Timmins – Worfield Parish Council

1. Minutes of and actions from the previous meeting

The minutes and actions from the previous meeting were approved. The status of actions is:

- Action 19/9-6:** David Cooper to find if data on the relevant spend in each area has been collated by anyone. **Ongoing**
- Action 20/2-1:** Existing working groups to produce first drafts [of their section of the Bridgnorth Plan] by June 2020. **First draft for demographics and business sections circulated.**
- Action 20/2-2:** Clive Dyson to progress with Steve Robbins, Sally Themans and members of the existing working group. **See Action 20/4-3**
- Action 20/2-3:** Keith Hayward and Susan Howle offered to be involved with the Medical and Health working group, including checking the status of the PPG at Bridgnorth Medical Practice. **To be progressed when feasible**
- Action 20/2-4:** Val Hayward offered to be involved with the working group on Education and Training. **To be progressed when feasible**
- Action 20/4-1:** Henry Carver and Daren Hodgson to review the sections on economy, business and growth. **Complete**
- Action 20/4-2:** Mike Golding to draft a section on Mobility and Transport, firming up proposals and making it more concise. **Draft complete**
- Action 20/4-3:** Clive Dyson to discuss RHT and the potential BID with Hayley Owen and the Marches LEP, as well as continuing discussions with interested parties. **Discussed with Hayley Owen**

2. Tasley Garden Village

The recent proposal by Taylor Wimpey for a Garden Village to the South of the bypass at Tasley was discussed. We agreed that the Consultation Document and Phase 1 report remain valid with regard to this proposal. However, it was noted that locating the development in Tasley would increase traffic on Hospital Street (and possibly along Salop Street) compared to a development around Stanmore. However, the Tasley is not in the Green Belt. The Consultation Plan and Phase 1 report are / will be in the public domain and will therefore be available to Taylor Wimpey and have been / will be sent to Shropshire Council.

3. Phase 1 report

The draft of the Phase 1 report is almost complete and has been circulated to all attendees and interested parties.

Its key recommendations include:

- The employment land already allocated should be developed to provide 1,370 new jobs compared to 2019, as envisaged in the draft LPR.
 - Little if any further employment land will be needed through to 2036.
 - Additional land will need to be set aside for post 2036.
- A reduced number of 800 to 1,000 new dwellings (including SAMDEV) should be included in the revised Local Plan. This number should be reviewed every 5 years in light of creation of new jobs, to be consistent with Shropshire Council's Balanced Growth strategy.
- No preference is expressed on the location of new development.
- Infrastructure must be committed to in advance of development. It was agreed that this point should be stressed.

The meeting agreed to these key recommendations.

4. Environmental Sustainability

This is a joint working group between Sustainable Bridgnorth and the Bridgnorth Plan. Mike Golding give an update on progress and the key issues being considered initially, including carbon neutrality, pollution, recycling and input reduction.

5. Pursuing the interests of the Bridgnorth settlement

We discussed how we might build on the work of the Steering Group and its supporting organisations, to develop a clearer strategy for the settlement, working more closely with Shropshire Council and the Marches LEP. One goal would be to attract more funding and support to the town.

We agreed that a new group, with the working title "Future Bridgnorth", should probably be formed to do this. It would involve the parish councils, local organisations and individuals who can contribute. Local Shropshire Councillors would be expected to participate and there should be representatives from the Marches LEP and from Shropshire Council officers.

We also discussed if the Local Joint Committee (which is not currently meeting) or SALC/Shropshire Council initiatives could be involved in some way. (Note: the current Place Plan system also needs to be considered.)

Action 20/5-1: Representatives of all parish councils and supporting bodies to consider what form they would wish such a group to take and if their organisation would support it.

We agreed that the attendees of this meeting will act as an interim working party to progress "Future Bridgnorth".

6. Date of next meetings

A meeting of the "Future Bridgnorth" working party will be held by videoconference at 7pm on Tuesday 19th May.

The next meetings of the Steering Group will be held by videoconference at 7pm on Tuesday 9th June and Tuesday 14th July.

Please nominate a delegate to attend on your behalf if you cannot attend.