

# Bridgnorth Plan Steering Group

## Minutes of Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Held as a Skype videoconference commencing at 7 pm.

**Present:** David Cooper – Bridgnorth Town Council  
Clive Dyson – Steering Group Chairman & Bridgnorth Town Council  
Mike Golding  
Susan Howle – Vice Chairman, Tasley Parish Council  
Karen Sawbridge - Bridgnorth Town Council

**Guests:** Sarah Barlow – Deputy Mayor, Bridgnorth Town Council  
Julia Buckley – Bridgnorth Town Council  
Darren Hodson  
Gary Timmins – Worfield Parish Council

**Apologies:** Henry Carver  
Kirstie Hurst-Knight – Mayor, Bridgnorth Town Council

### 1. Minutes of and actions from the previous meeting

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

- Action 19/9-6:** David Cooper to find if data on the relevant spend in each area has been collated by anyone. **To be dropped – see matters arising**
- Action 20/2-1:** Existing working groups to produce first drafts [of their section of the Bridgnorth Plan] by June 2020. **Completed as the Phase 1 report**
- Action 20/2-3:** ... the Medical and Health working group ... **Agenda item**
- Action 20/2-4:** ... Education and Training working group. **Agenda item**
- 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. **Complete – being progressed under “Future Bridgnorth”**
- 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. **Agenda item**

### 2. Matters arising

We agreed not to pursue finding the regional spend within Shropshire. David Cooper commented that Shropshire Council currently has about £25M of unspent Community Instructure Levy.

Shropshire Council is working on a “Shropshire Community and Rural Strategy”, which will cover spend and service provision across the county.

### 3. The Phase 1 Report

This has now been approved by all Steering Group members (except for one, who has not responded). A number of corrections and clarification have been made in the process. Some substantial comments have also been received, which will be treated along with other responses. It has been posted on the web site, which has been revised.

We agreed that it should be widely circulated, to our local distribution list (including parish councils and organisations), local Shropshire councillors, Shropshire Council cabinet members and directors, the Marches LEP and the Star and Journal.

We agree that we should have a Facebook page for the Bridgnorth Plan and that this would need at least three people to act as editors. David Cooper and (?) volunteered to act as editors, subject to a third person assisting.

**Action 20/6-1:** Attendees to let Clive know if they can assist with Facebook or suggest someone who can.

#### **4. Membership of the Steering Group**

**Action 20/6-2:** Clive to ask Robert Law if he wishes to continue as a member.

Our Terms of Reference allow for 10 members of the Steering Group. Gary Timmins agreed to become a member. Julia Buckley agreed to act on a temporary basis, to help find someone working on the 'Social Sustainability' to join the group (see below). We will need a further member – possibly someone working in the area of Education and Training.

Clive commented that meetings are open to anyone working on the Bridgnorth Plan and that those people active at any time are notified of meetings.

#### **5. “Future Bridgnorth”**

Two conference calls, spun off from the Steering Group meetings, have been held to discuss this. Following these, a call was held between Mark Barrow (Director of Place for Shropshire Council), Gemma Davies (Head of Economic Growth for Shropshire Council), Kirstie Hurst-Knight (Mayor, Bridgnorth Town Council) and Clive Dyson. A meeting is to be held between interested parties, including Shropshire Council, the Marches LEP, Bridgnorth Town Council, local Parish Councils, local business representatives and the Chamber of Commerce to progress this further.

The Steering Group agreed that we should request to participate.

**Action 20/6-3:** Clive to arrange for representation on “Future Bridgnorth”.

We discussed how “Future Bridgnorth” should relate to action on the COVID-19 pandemic. We did not reach a conclusion, but noted that this and the potential BID will be potentials starting points.

**Action 20/6-4:** Clive to forward David Cooper’s email on job statistics in Bridgnorth to participants.

We discussed the impact that COVID-19 will have on the local economy. We agreed to start to develop an addendum to our Phase 1 Report, capturing ideas on the potential impact, in preparations for a potential revision.

**Action 20/6-5:** Participants (and recipients of these minutes) to send a set of bullet points summarising their thoughts on the impact of COVID-19 to Clive, who will assemble these into a draft document.

We will seek to separate the short-term impact and response from the long-term development of the town, although COVID-19 may well have some long-term effect.

#### **6. Environmental Sustainability**

The joint working group, chaired by Mike Golding, is meeting regularly and producing a report to provide a framework for other working groups.

#### **7. Next steps – new working groups**

Sporting Bridgnorth is already addressing “Sports and Leisure” and the “Environmental Sustainability” working group is progressing well.

We also need to continue to progress work on the economy, possibly through the “Future Bridgnorth” group.

We considered the diagram of working groups produced in 2019. Out of these we listed the following to be progressed next:

- “Social Sustainability”, covering support of the young, old and vulnerable. There is a lot of ongoing activity in these fields, especially in the light of COVID-19.

**Action 20/6-6:** Julia Buckley to send Clive a list of individuals active in this area. We will look to arrange a meeting to discuss forming a Social Sustainability working group.

- Education and Skills.

**Action 20/6-7:** Sarah Barlow to consider who might be involved and send Clive a list of individuals to involve in an Education and Training working group.

We also noted that “Medical and Health” and “Crime and Safety” need to be addressed in the coming months.

## **8. Date of next meeting**

The next meetings of the Steering Group will be held by videoconference at 7pm Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

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