

# Bridgnorth Plan Steering Group

## Minutes of Meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020

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

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

- Action 20/6-3:** Clive to arrange for representation on “Future Bridgnorth”. **Ongoing**
- Action 20/6-4:** Clive to forward David Cooper’s email on job statistics in Bridgnorth to participants. **Ongoing**
- Action 20/6-7:** Sarah Barlow to consider who might be involved [in Education and Skills] and send Clive a list of individuals to involve in a working group. **Ongoing**
- Action 20/7-1:** Geoff Davies to circulate recent minutes to the Steering Group and investigate if Sporting Bridgnorth can provide a report on its work, as an input to the Bridgnorth Plan. **Summary in the update. Ongoing**
- Action 20/7-2:** **All** to consider if and how the sections of the 1st Phase Report (and Consultation Document) should be revised. Offers to revise relevant sections to be sent to Clive. **Replaced by actions below.**

### 2. Matters arising

Kirstie Hurst-Knight, Bridgnorth Town Mayor, has written to the Steering Group and participants in our work, thanking us for our report and the work involved, and commenting that it will provide useful views and analysis to inform the Town Council.

### 3. Review of ongoing activities

An update on progress has been circulated prior to the meeting. Current activity covers:

- “Future Bridgnorth”
- Environmental Sustainability
- Sports and Leisure
- Social Sustainability
- Crime and Safety

We discussed how the outputs from this work will feed into the Bridgnorth Plan. We agreed (later in the meeting but captured here for clarity) that we will issue periodic releases of a draft Bridgnorth Plan. Each release will capture work to date and be made when sufficient new content is available or there is a requirement for a revision.

### 4. Regulation 18 consultation on the Local Plan Review

David Cooper introduced the regulation 18 consultation. It contains 14 new Strategic Policies, 35 new Development Policies, 18 Settlement Policies and further information in a 341-page document, supported by a lot of other material.

It proposes 1,800 new dwellings and 49 ha additional employment land around Bridgnorth.

Much of the document is straightforward planning and members were concerned about how to identify the key issues that need to be responded to.

- Action 20/8-1:** Clive Dyson to distribute a draft presentation that attempts to precis the document and highlight sections to consider in detail. Comments requested.

A number of members expressed concern about the scale of the proposed new development. Our Phase 1 report already suggests an appropriate level of growth for the period to 2036. This probably needs revising for the period to 2038 now being covered by the draft LPR.

There were also comments that:

- The links between required infrastructure (and funding) and its interaction and impact on the rest of the plan have not been presented. There has not been, for example, a strategic highways review.
- The impact of SC's policy that one new job should be created for each new dwelling built needs to be brought out in responses to the regulation 18 consultation.
- We need to engage with our local Shropshire Councillors.

**Action 20/8-2:** Clive Dyson to write to local Shropshire Councillors again.

A Housing Strategy has also been published, with a lot of overlap, to be responded to by (16<sup>th</sup> September – check).

We agreed to review the Phase 1 Report and consider where it needs updating in light of the regulation 18 consultation document and COVID-19. In particular, the review period has been extended from 2036 to 2038.

**Action 20/8-3:** Those involved in the Economy and Growth, Demographics, and Mobility and Transport Groups to consider what changes are required to their sections of the Phase 1 report.

**Action 20/8-4:** Mike Golding and Clive Dyson to consider adding a section on Environmental Sustainability.

We discussed if and how we (and parish councils) might consult again with the public in the limited time available in which submissions can be made. Clive commented that one of the reasons for the Bridgnorth Plan activity was to gather public opinion and that we have already achieved that with respect to much of the LPR, providing a report to local councils and others.

David Cooper has publicised the consultation on Facebook to encourage residents to respond and Clive Dyson has put a similar statement on the Bridgnorth Plan website.

**Action 20/8-5:** All to email Clive with any other ideas for improving consultation.

## 5. Next steps

We will press ahead with the activity covered in the recent update. We will consider how to start work on other areas (especially Education and Training) after the summer holidays.

As noted above, we agreed to issue periodic drafts of the Bridgnorth Plan.

## 6. Date of next meeting – 7pm Tuesday 8th September?

The next meeting of the Steering Group will be held by Zoom videoconference at 7pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Please nominate a delegate to attend on your behalf if you cannot attend.