

# **Bridgnorth Plan Steering Group**

## **Minutes of Meeting – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020**

Held as a Zoom videoconference commencing at 7 pm.

**Present:** Julia Buckley – Bridgnorth Town Council  
Henry Carver  
Clive Dyson – Steering Group Chairman & Bridgnorth Town Council  
George Edwards – Tasley Parish Council  
Mike Golding  
Darren Hodson

**Apologies:** David Cooper – Bridgnorth Town Council  
Michele Ross  
Karen Sawbridge - Bridgnorth Town Council  
Gary Timmins – Worfield Parish 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 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. **Complete**
- 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 20/8-4:** Mike Golding and Clive Dyson to consider adding a section on Environmental Sustainability. **To be added to version 1**
- Action 20/9-1:** Darren to investigate why the ONS 2018 forecast has been increased. **Ongoing**
- Action 20/9-2:** Clive to produce a draft formal report and distribute it to Steering Group members and participants in the recent work. **Complete**
- Action 20/9-3:** All to consider issues they would wish us to respond to and provide (in collaboration with others) a draft Consultation Form for these. **Drafted Consultation Forms by cut and paste from the Update Report**

As suggested in the email calling the meeting, it was agreed that we should aim to hold an AGM at the next meeting, in October (or as soon thereafter as practical).

**Action 20/9-4:** Clive Dyson to arrange an AGM.

### **2. A potential submission to consultation on the draft Local Plan**

A draft of the Update Report (including minor changes to make the report suitable for submission) and 5 draft Consultation Forms were circulated prior to the meeting, for consideration for potential submission in response to Shropshire Council’s consultation on the draft Local Plan.

Bridgnorth Town Council had approved its submission on the draft Local Plan at its meeting on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The final draft of that submission, from the public section of the Town Council website, was circulated prior to the meeting.

We discussed the draft Update Report and Consultation Forms. We noted that Bridgnorth Town Council’s submission was largely aligned with our potential submission, although it also addressed additional issues, such as release of the Green Belt around Stanmore Business

Park, that we have not expressed a view on (and that Steering Group members may not necessarily agree with).

George Edwards indicated that he did not see any conflict between our proposed submission and that likely to be made by Tasley Parish Council.

We agreed that the report title should be changed to indicate that it was a submission to the draft Local Plan consultation, and that a reference to the circa 500 dwellings already approved under SAMDev around Tasley should be added to clarify the relevant paragraph, if possible.

We voted unanimously that the submission report, the 5 Consultation Forms, the Phase 1 Report and the Consultation Document should be submitted to Shropshire Council in response to its "Regulation 18: Pre-Submission Draft of the Shropshire Local Plan".

**Action 20/9-5:** Clive Dyson to make the agreed changes and formally submit the documents to Shropshire Council.

### 3. Review of ongoing activities

#### Environmental Sustainability

Mike Golding reminded the meeting that the working group had recommended work on three projects, in the short term:

1. **'Green spaces'**: Clive has held initial discussions with the Town Clerk on this. To progress.
2. **Domestic carbon dioxide emissions**: The aim of this is to take local action to reduce emissions and find ways to ensure available funding is applied locally. Mike and Clive requested help from Steering Group members to find people to get involved and drive the work.

Julia Buckley informed the group that the [Green Homes Grant Scheme](#) will open to applications from individuals from the end of September. This is being promoted by the Marches Energy Hub and Shropshire Council's Affordable Warmth Team. We agree that we should find a way to liaise with these and assist promotion of the scheme in Bridgnorth, and also contact Sally Themans on the issue.

Shropshire Council will probably have made an application to the [Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme](#). It would be helpful to understand its scope and funding.

Other possible initiatives will be considered in future.

3. **Mobility and transport infrastructure**: Mike is leading this. Shropshire Council is already committed in the existing Local Plan to improving footpaths and cycleways in the county. Nothing has been done in Bridgnorth. The draft Local Plan includes further commitments to these. It also states that a Highways Assessment will be carried out for the Bridgnorth area.

Mike proposed that he draft a proposal on this, covering both the strategic aspects and possible short term, relatively low cost, improvements (such as footpaths, cycleways and highway markings, signage and priorities). The focus will be on supporting pedestrians and cyclists, reducing pollution and congestion, and assessing future highways and transportation needs. Clive offered to assist with the section on short term initiatives. A meeting will then be arranged with Highways and Environmental Health. We agreed to this approach.

**Action 20/9-6:** Mike Golding to produce a draft proposal on Mobility and Transport.

## **Social Sustainability**

Clive has been chairing a series of initial meetings to identify active groups in Bridgnorth and gather initial ideas as to what needs to be addressed. Its next meeting is being held at 7pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September. Contact Clive if you wish to participate.

## **Sports and Leisure**

This continues to be led by Sporting Bridgnorth.

## **“Future Bridgnorth” and Crime & Safety**

Both of these are being progressed by Kirstie Knight-Hurst, Mayor of Bridgnorth Town Council, with assistance from other councillors.

## **4. Other Business**

Julia raised the consultation on the “Planning for the Future” White Paper, which is open until the end of October. This may reduce our ability to influence future versions of the Local Plan.

There was some general concern about the proposals and individual members expressed an intent to respond to the consultation.

However, the Steering Group is currently constituted to work within the existing planning framework and develop a (wider) plan for Bridgnorth. Its terms of reference do not include responding to proposed changes in national legislation and doing so would be a significant project in its own right.

It was agreed that the Steering Group will not aim to respond to the consultation on the White Paper. Steering Group members may be responding as individuals and / or through other channels.

## **5. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Steering Group will be held by Zoom videoconference at 7pm on **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October**. Please nominate a delegate to attend on your behalf if you cannot attend.