

Bridgnorth Plan Steering Group

Minutes of Meeting – 24th November 2020

Held as a Zoom videoconference commencing at 7 pm.

Members present: Henry Carver
David Cooper – Bridgnorth Town Council
Clive Dyson – Steering Group Chairman & Bridgnorth Town Council
George Edwards – Tasley Parish Council
Mike Golding
Darren Hodson
Gary Timmins – Worfield Parish Council

Apologies: Julia Buckley – Bridgnorth Town Council
Stephen Robbins – Chamber of Commerce
Karen Sawbridge - 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 20/6-3:** Clive to arrange for representation on “Future Bridgnorth”. **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 20/10-1:** David Cooper to provide a copy of local job statistics. **Complete**
- Action 20/10-2:** Darren Hodson to provide a summary of the proposed changes. **Complete**
- Action 20/10-3:** David Cooper to summarise the information shared. **Complete**
- Action 20/10-4:** Darren Hodson and David Cooper to prepare a draft submission to the consultation on the ONS proposals. The Chairman to submit it. **Complete**
- Action 20/10-5:** All to comment promptly on the next draft of the Bridgnorth Plan. **Draft circulated for this meeting**

2. Matters arising

- Action 20/11-1:** David to provide an update on local job statistics and Clive to put information on our website.
- Action 20/11-2:** Clive to put ONS submission on our website.

David outlined discussion in Shropshire Council on a ‘community strategy’, which would allow for different approaches to be adopted in different parts of the county.

3. Bridgnorth Plan

Work to date has had an impact, contributing to the demand for an additional Regulation 18 consultation on the Local Plan and the allocation of CIL funding for a Highways Assessment.

Clive proposed minor changes to latest draft of the Bridgnorth Plan in the section on Social Sustainability, including the Bridgnorth Youth Partnership. Gary pointed out that dates have been set for the end of sales of ICE and PHEV cars, which could be included in the Plan.

We unanimously approved the version of the 1st Edition of the Bridgnorth Plan circulated prior to the meeting, with these minor changes, for publication.

- Action 20/11-3:** Clive to finalise the Bridgnorth Plan, distribute it and put it on our website.

4. “Future Bridgnorth”

A first meeting of “Future Bridgnorth” is being arranged by Bridgnorth Town Council. It is likely to involve Shropshire Council officers and councillors, the Marches LEP, Bridgnorth Town Council, some parish councillors, a BPSG representative, the Chamber of Commerce, other local groups and Rotary and Lions representatives.

5. Projects

As part of our work we have identified a number of potential projects, including: footpath and cycleway improvements; improving traffic flow and reducing pollution from Pound Street to Low Town; improving the High Street; where to install on-street EV charging; reducing carbon dioxide emissions from housing; a Highways Assessment (which now has CIL funding); and “Future Bridgnorth” (and a potential BID).

We could leave these to be progressed by others, such as Shropshire Council, the Town Council and Sustainable Bridgnorth. After some discussion we agreed that Steering Group members wished to be actively involved, and drive or set up some projects directly. Some will be covered by “Future Bridgnorth” and other groups, and we can be involved.

In the short term, we will focus on projects related to Highways and the Highways Assessment, EV charging, and “Future Bridgnorth”. We would like to involve our local Shropshire Councillors. Clive is arranging a meeting on the location of EV charge points and Christian Lea has asked to be involved.

Action 20/11-4: Mike and Clive to contact Shropshire Council and seek to get us involved with the Highways Assessment.

6. Issues already covered and the Local Plan

A version of the Local Plan is due to be released on Friday 27th November. This will be considered by Shropshire Council cabinet on Monday 7th December for authority to progress to Regulation 19 consultation, which will be held for a period probably ending towards the end of January 2021. The consultation will consider whether the version is sound and policy compliant. A report on the Regulation 18 consultation will also be available, covering responses to the issues raised in submissions.

The Regulation 18 draft Local Plan includes provision for major developments around Bridgnorth to be Master Planned. This should be carried forward to the next version. It allows for community involvement and would give us the opportunity to influence aspects of the development.

Following the Regulation 19, the Local Plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination.

We discussed how we should continue to influence Shropshire Council. “Future Bridgnorth” will be one good route.

Action 20/11-5: David and Clive to circulate a list of policy holders and the main officers in Shropshire Council.

7. Date of next meetings

The next meetings of the Steering Group will be held by Zoom videoconference:

- At 7pm on **Thursday 3rd December**, to consider if questions should be submitted to the SC cabinet meeting. (*Note: Is this too late? Don't questions need to be in that day?*)
- At 7pm on **Tuesday 8th December**, to decide how to react to the released version of the Local Plan.