

Bridgnorth Plan Steering Group

Minutes of Meeting – 2nd February 2021

Held as a Zoom videoconference commencing at 7 pm.

Present: Henry Carver
David Cooper – Bridgnorth Town Council (BTC)
Geoff Davies – Bridgnorth Chamber of Commerce and BTC
Clive Dyson – Steering Group Chairman and BTC
George Edwards – Tasley Parish Council
Mike Golding
Darren Hodson
Gary Timmins – Worfield Parish Council
Michele Ross

Apologies: Sarah Barlow – Bridgnorth Town Council
Kirstie Hurst-Knight – Bridgnorth Town Council
Karen Sawbridge - Bridgnorth Town Council

1. Minutes of and actions from the previous meeting

Will be considered at the next Steering Group meeting on Tuesday 16th February.

2. Regulation 19 consultation on the draft Local Plan

A number of working group meetings have been held to progress a potential submission.

We reviewed draft 'Form b' submissions on (1) legal compliance and (2) the plan not being sound due to lack of justification of strategy / supporting evidence.

Suggestions for improvement included: using some repetition of points to add emphasis; stressing that the plan cannot be sound without an Infrastructure Plan (may already be covered); consideration of the 'Viability Study'; and lack of any consideration of a reasonable set of alternative strategies, including different spatial distributions.

Action 21/2-1: David Cooper to provide a link to the Viability Study to the working group.

We discussed whether to submit these, with a third 'Form b' submission covering the plan not being sound due to it not being effective / deliverable. We had intended to submit separate forms on different aspects of the plan, such as housing or infrastructure, not being sound. We reviews a draft 'Form b' taking this approach, covering the NPPF.

We agreed to submit three 'Form b' on: (1) legal compliance (draft to be revised by Clive Dyson); (2) the plan not being sound due to lack of justification of strategy / supporting evidence (draft to be revised by Darren Hodson); and (3) the plan not being sound due to it not being effective / deliverable (draft to be produced by David Cooper).

Action 21/2-2: Clive, Darren and David to circulate the above three drafts to the working group, ideally by the weekend.

The working group will be meeting on Tuesday 9th February to consider the revised drafts, sending out final drafts to the Steering Group for consideration at its next meeting.

Our objective is for the scale of development around Bridgnorth to be reduced, in line with the proposals in the 1st Edition of the Bridgnorth Plan. We agreed that we would welcome any opportunity to work with Shropshire Council, local Shropshire Councillors, parish councils and others to investigate a possible modification of the Local Plan along those lines. Steering Group members should consider any means by which this might be progressed and report back.

3. Future work

We briefly discussed progress towards a “Future Bridgnorth” group, which has stalled. It was suggested that Clive might contact Mark Barrow (SC Director of Place) again to discuss this, with Kirstie Hurst-Knight or Sarah Barlow.

Clive had also circulated minutes from the last meeting of ‘Social Sustainability’ group to provide some indication of progress. The Steering Group needs to consider this and other outstanding areas and decide which to progress and how to handle others, to allow us to make progress towards the next edition of the Bridgnorth Plan.

4. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Steering Group will be held as a Zoom conference call at 7pm on Tuesday 16th February.