

Bridgnorth Town Plan 2019

Minutes of Exploratory Meeting – 30th May 2019

Held at Castle Hall, Bridgnorth at 6pm.

Present: Elaine Aldridge – Vice Chairman, Worfield Parish Council (WPC),
Valerie Edwards – Clerk, WPC, Lynne Tennant – Councillor, WPC
David Cooper – Councillor, Bridgnorth Town Council (BTC)
Darren Hodson – SBGB, Henry Carver, Michael Kendrick,
Steve Robbins – Chairman, Bridgnorth Chamber of Commerce,
Karen Sawbridge – Chairman, Bridgnorth Rugby Club, Steven Farnell,
Robert Davies – Chairman, Bridgnorth Housing Trust,
Christian Lea, Elliott Lynch - Councillors, Shropshire Council (SC)
Bob Ensum – Sustainable Bridgnorth, Malvern Tipping,
Ron Whittle, Clive Dyson - Councillors, BTC

Apologies: Sarah Barlow, Julia Buckley - Councillors, BTC,
Revd Simon Cawdell – Team Rector of Bridgnorth,
Ray Gill, Bill Griffiths – Clerk, Tasley Parish Council,
Lee Jakeman – Clerk, BTC, Tracy Johnson – Shropshire Council,
Jayne Madeley – Clerk, Astley Abbots Parish Council,
Graeme Manton - Apley Estate, Kath Norgrove – Sustainable Bridgnorth,
William Parr - Councillor, SC, Peter Randell,
Marie Sever – Bridgnorth Chamber of Commerce, Emma Spenser – SC,
Johnny Themans, Sally Themans – Love Bridgnorth, Ian Wellings,
Les Winwood - Councillor, SC

1 A revised Town Plan in the context of the Local Plan Review

Clive Dyson introduced the meeting, explaining that the meeting had been called to obtain the participants' views on whether and how to proceed with revising the Bridgnorth Town Plan.

He proposed that a revised Town Plan should be a vision for Bridgnorth for the longer term, considering the infrastructure and other services required. For it to be accepted as supplementary planning guidance by Shropshire Council it would have to be compatible with the Local Plan.

2 Discussion of the proposed approach

A proposal had been circulated prior to the meeting. This was discussed and the following comments made, which were not agreed on and are recorded for later use:

- Different groups will wish to make different responses to the Local Plan Review (LPR). Therefore, the development of the Town Plan should be a separate activity.
- How should any data collected be collated and sorted?
- An easy approach would be to choose some actions from the current Town Plan and deliver on them.
- How can a Town Plan have influence over planning decisions?
- Local businesses should be protected.
- Surveys should be one of the ways in which views are obtained.
- Internet survey systems can be used at low cost.
- A Town Plan should plan for the longer term, rather than being reactive.
- Issues facing town centre businesses must be addressed first.

- Some form a 'Mission Statement' is needed.
- A variety of people need to be involved. No representative of education present.
- LEP funding should be explored. As should other funding.
- We are looking for a solution for the Bridgnorth settlement. Do we need a District Council instead of Parish Councils?

Clive Dyson summarised the requirement for any document to be consistent with the Local Plan and for it to be accepted as supplementary planning guidance by Shropshire Council, before it could have any formal impact on planning decisions.

It was agreed to accept the proposal as a starting point, to be incorporated into Terms of Reference.

3 An independent Steering Group

The proposal suggested that an independent steering group be formed, with the chairman being nominated by Bridgnorth Town Council. The chairman would be expected to facilitate.

It was agreed to form a steering group along the lines proposed. The steering group should produce Terms of Reference for consideration and for approval by participating organisations.

Action 1: All to inform Clive Dyson, by 7th June, if they would wish to participate in the steering group and to suggest people who would be valuable members.

Action 2: All to inform Clive of individuals and organisations that they consider should be involved in producing a revised Town Plan.

Action 3: Clive to arrange a first steering group meeting by the end of June.

The steering group will need to ensure compliance with GDPR.

4 How to produce a draft Town Plan

It was noted that time is short to produce a Town Plan before responses to the LPR must be submitted.

The proposal envisages identifying key issues facing the town, and quickly producing a draft document discussing these and potential solutions. We discussed how to subsequently consult with the community, including surveys and public meetings.

This should be reviewed by the steering group.

Early publicity is required to raise awareness of development of a revised Town Plan.

Action 4: Clive Dyson to arrange appropriate PR by mid-June.