

Bridgnorth Town Plan Steering Group

Minutes of Meeting – 27th August 2019

Held in the Annexe, College House, Bridgnorth at 6.30 pm.

Present: Clive Dyson – Councillor, Bridgnorth Town Council (BTC)
Mike Golding
Susan Howle – Vice Chairman, Tasley Parish Council
Steve Robbins – Chairman, Bridgnorth Chamber of Commerce

Apologies: Henry Carver
David Cooper – Councillor, BTC
Rob Law – Councillor, Quatt Malvern Parish Council
Karen Sawbridge – Chairman, Bridgnorth Rugby Club
Jason McCoomb

1. Minutes of and actions from the previous meeting

- Action 19/6-3:** Clive Dyson to contact the heads of Oldbury Wells School and Bridgnorth Endowed School and discuss how to progress consideration of education, on a broad basis. ***Progressed through the Education and Skills group.***
- Action 19/6-7:** Clive Dyson to investigate whether the domain used for the current Town Plan is available to us. ***In contact with Mike Proudman on this.***
- Action 19/8-1:** Henry Carver to discuss representation with Worfield and Rudge Parish Council.
- Action 19/8-2:** Henry Carver to summarise his thoughts related to the economic strategy for Bridgnorth ready for the next Economy and Business working group meeting. ***Complete.***

2. Matters arising

The draft Terms of Reference are being considered for approval by Bridgnorth Town Council.

- Action 19/8-3:** Susan Howle to arrange for Tasley Parish Council to consider approving the Terms of Reference. *(See minutes of the meeting held on 6th August).*

Clive Dyson reported that he had requested £150 of funding from Bridgnorth Town Council to cover the cost of upgrading the web site and providing an independent domain name.

Karen Sawbridge is unable to attend our meetings on Tuesday evenings and will probably help find an alternative representative of the sports community.

3. Update on progress

The working groups that we need to form a basis for our work are now operating, sufficient to provide the main inputs to any responses to the Local Plan Review. We will add further working groups over the rest of the year.

A joint meeting has been held between the 'Growth and Demographics' and 'Economy and Business' working groups. An initial, detailed demographics document has been produced and it was reviewed. It has been agreed to model two or three growth scenarios.

An initial Economics and Business document has also been produced. It is proposed not to attempt to 'pick winners' but to look for infrastructure to support a wide range of businesses. Representatives are being found for retail, hospitality and tourism.

The 'Mobility and Transport' working group has held its first meeting and an initial draft document summarising issues identified has been produced. We discussed a number of areas related to its work and these will be fed back by Mike Golding to the working group.

Sports clubs in the town are already meeting to discuss potential collaboration. They have been asked to consider developing proposals for the 'Sports and Leisure' section of the Town Plan, as part of their activity.

The next meeting of the 'Education and Skills' working group is scheduled for 5th September.

IT framework

The web site is operational and will be upgraded to allow better control of who can edit each page and with its own domain, if and when funding is available.

Files are being accessed by participants via shared folders on the internet.

We discussed the use of social media and agreed that we should have entries on Bridgnorth News and Views, Bridgnorth Chats and Rants and Love Bridgnorth. We agreed to identify participants who would be able to manage these entries. Jason McCoomb has previously offered to try to find individuals who can contribute.

4. Next steps

Each of the operating working groups is editing one or more documents through a series of drafts and these will be released to the steering group and participating organisations for review at a suitable revision. We agreed to request 6 participants of the working groups to act as a core group of authors, with others contributing text and reviewing the work.

The documents from the working groups need to be combined into a single discussion document and it was agreed that Clive Dyson should lead this integration.

Susan Howle offered to act as one of the reviewers, suggesting revisions.

5. Support and participation

We have a Steering Group member on all of the working groups that have met so far. Steering Group members are requested to consider mentoring and facilitating one of the working groups.

We have few women on the working groups and we agreed that this imbalance should be addressed.

6. Date of next meetings

Meetings are likely to be held at College House, either in the Mayor's Parlour or in the Annexe, commencing at 6.30pm.

Provisional dates for future meetings are:

- Tuesday 24th September
- Tuesday 29th October
- Tuesday 26th November

Please let Clive know if you can attend on these dates and nominate a delegate to attend on your behalf if you cannot.