

# Bridgnorth Town Plan Steering Group

## Minutes of Meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019

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

**Present:** Henry Carver  
David Cooper – Councillor, BTC  
Clive Dyson – Chairman  
Mike Golding  
Darren Hodson – demographics and growth working party  
Mark Mitchell – Tasley Parish Council (alternate for Susan Howle)  
Steve Robbins – Bridgnorth Chamber of Commerce

**Apologies:** Susan Howle – Vice Chairman, Tasley Parish Council  
Rob Law – Councillor, Quatt Malvern Parish Council  
Karen Sawbridge – Chairman, Bridgnorth Rugby Club

### 1. Minutes of and actions from the previous meeting

**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. ***Complete – not currently intending to appoint a member.***

**Action 19/8-3:** Susan Howle to arrange for Tasley Parish Council to consider approving the Terms of Reference. ***Ongoing.***

### 2. Matters arising

Bridgnorth Town Council has approved the Terms of Reference and provided up to £150 funding to cover the cost of upgrading the web site and providing an independent domain name.

We discussed the work of the Marches LEP and how it may impact on our work. For example, its proposals for strategic investment on transport corridors do not include any improvement in the road network around Bridgnorth and Bridgnorth is not mentioned as an 'Opportunity Town'.

The Marches LEP is holding a workshop on its strategic plan at Shrewsbury Town's stadium on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

### 3. Status of the Local Plan Review

Clive Dyson has been in contact with Adrian Cooper, who will arrange for Tracey Johnson to contact us to discuss how Shropshire Council should work with the group. Adrian has indicated that the next documentation on the Local Plan Review may be ready for release for consultation in about March 2020.

This is a 3-month delay from when we had expected the consultation might start and gives us an additional 3 months to complete our consultation and preparation.

**Action 19/9-1:** Clive Dyson to invite Adrian Cooper (and possibly Hayley Owen) to the next meeting of the Steering Group.

We believe that the Local Plan Review will need to be inspected by mid-2021 so that it can be adopted by the end of 2021.

## 4. Early draft of the Consultation Document

The documents produced by the 'Demographics and Growth', 'Economy and Business' and 'Mobility and Transport' working groups have been combined to produce an early draft of the Consultation Document.

A first meeting of the Retail, Hospitality and Tourism working group has been held. Outputs of this meeting have been added to the Consultation Document, and a second revision has been completed and distributed to working group members, the Steering Group and interested organisations.

We clarified the area to be covered by the Town Plan as being Bridgnorth Town and the adjacent parishes. (*Subsequent note: Tasley Parish have requested that the 'Bridgnorth Town Plan' might be renamed as the 'Bridgnorth Plan' or the 'Bridgnorth Area Plan' to help make this clear.*)

We discussed the way in which the limited growth envisaged by Shropshire Council in rural areas increases the level of growth required in the market towns. We agreed that the Consultation Document should consider the impact of different levels of growth, especially with regard to the infrastructure capacity (including, roads, schools, medical care etc.). It also needs to consider demographics, any implications of an aging population and how to attract working age people back to the town.

Potential future growth of development land should be set in the context of historical growth and the amount of development land that is still available and the rate of take up. It is believed that about [45 acres – check figure] of development land are currently available.

We agreed that the level of employment in retail, hospitality and tourism; services; and other industries should be estimated.

**Action 19/9-2:** Clive to ask Retail, Hospitality and Tourism group to estimate employment for these sectors.

**Action 19/9-3:** Economy and Business group to estimate employment for other businesses.

There may be existing sources of data. For example, Tracy Johnson and the LEP may be able to assist.

We discussed the impact of growth on traffic movements. Are there any standards for the amount of traffic that a single carriageway A-road can be expected to carry?

**Action 19/9-4:** Clive Dyson to collate existing data on daily traffic movements and extrapolate them into the future, for various levels of household and employment growth.

We discussed medical services. This will be considered in depth by a working group on the subject at a later date.

**Action 19/9-5:** All to suggest and invite people to join the Medical and Health working group.

We discussed the level of capital expenditure in Bridgnorth by Shropshire Council over the last 30 years. This was felt to be low (per head) compared to Shrewsbury and possibly compared to other market towns in the county. There is no evidence of any future plans to increase capital expenditure to support any future development in Bridgnorth.

**Action 19/9-6:** David Cooper to find if data on the relevant spend in each area has been collated by anyone.

Mike Golding encouraged the group to push for an optimistic vision of the future for the town.

It was agreed that part of the vision should (continue to be) to build on the existing strengths of the town, as set out in parts of the Consultation Document.

## **5. Completing the Consultation Document**

It was agreed that the working groups should be asked to complete two iterations of their parts of the Consultation Document and to consider how their work fits in with that of other working groups. Suggestions on how to structure the whole document to be invited. Clive Dyson to coordinate editing of the overall document.

## **6. Preparation for consultation**

We confirmed that consultation will be carried out via:

- A number of public meetings, probably to be held in Castle Hall and Low Town Community Centre. Parishes can suggest additional locations if necessary.
- An on-line questionnaire.

Consultation will probably commence in November. Given the potential delay in LPR consultation we may decide to extend the consultation into 2020.

## **7. Date of next meeting**

Meetings be held at College House, either in the Mayor's Parlour or in the Annexe, commencing at 6.30pm, unless otherwise advised.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th October.

The provisional date for the subsequent meeting is Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November.

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