

Bridgnorth Town Plan Steering Group

Minutes of Meeting – 29th October 2019

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

Present: Henry Carver
David Cooper – Councillor, BTC
Geoff Davies (alternate for Steve Robbins)
Clive Dyson – Chairman
Darren Hodson – demographics and growth working party
Susan Howle – Vice Chairman, Tasley Parish Council
Liz Rochelle (alternate for Karen Sawbridge)

Apologies: Paul Axworthy – economics and business working group
Mike Golding
Rob Law – Councillor, Quatt Malvern Parish Council
Steve Robbins – Chairman, Bridgnorth Chamber of Commerce
Karen Sawbridge – Chairman, Bridgnorth Rugby Club

1. Minutes of and actions from the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, subject to typographical corrections.

Action 19/6-7: Clive Dyson to investigate whether the domain used for the current Town Plan is available to us. **Complete - The domain is available.**

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

Action 19/9-1: Clive to invite Adrian Cooper (and possibly Hayley Owen) to the next meeting of the Steering Group. **Complete - Adrian cannot attend, due to a previous commitment.**

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

Action 19/9-3: Economy and Business group to estimate employment for other businesses. **Complete - Data obtained from ONS.**

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

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

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

2. Matters arising

Clive attended the Marches LEP workshop on its strategic plan at Shrewsbury Town's stadium on 18th October. Contacts made and our activity was noted.

Action 19/10-1: Clive to invite Adrian Cooper and Hayley Owen to our next meeting, or arrange a meeting on another date.

3. Title of the Plan

There was general support for finding a title that conveys that the Plan is to cover a wider area than the Bridgnorth Town Council boundary. There are a few administrative issues, such as obtaining a new domain, in making a change.

We agreed to change the title to “Bridgnorth Plan”. *(Subsequent note: It may be pragmatic to leave the domain name unchanged, at least for the present.)*

4. Draft of the Consultation Document

We worked through the draft circulated prior to the meeting, focusing on the more recently changed sections and any points raised by attendees. Changes agreed included:

- Summary: Remove “and it is important that this is clarified” from the fourth bullet point.
- Summary: To consider the term ‘experience’, used in isolation.
- Summary: To rephrase the bullet point on employment growth to include other businesses and include the reasons for emphasising modern office facilities. Henry Carver will provide draft wording.
- Sustainability: More wording, especially on other pollutants, is needed. David Cooper will provide draft wording.
- Sustainability: 2050 target here, and elsewhere in the draft, to be changed to 2030.
- 6.2.4: The wording for the control of the release of employment land need improvement / clarification: “allocated for employment development” was suggested.

We discussed a number of issues in some depth. We concluded that most of the discussion was about how to deal with the issues raised in the Consultation Document, and that it should be raised as part of the consultation and taken forwards as part of the Plan.

We agreed that the current draft should be finalised, including the above inputs, and circulated for final agreement by Steering Group members, by email, before being published in the web site.

Action 19/10-2: Clive to finalise the Consultation Document, circulate for approval, and publish to the web site.

5. Responding to the Local Plan Review

It was agreed that we will could act before the next phase of consultation on the LPR is announced, especially given the slip to March 2020. We agreed that, subject to confirmation, we will probably wish to submit the results of our consultation to Shropshire Council, possibly with no further comment, as soon as they are available. This would be at about the same time (possibly somewhat after) the data being provided to local parish councils and our supporting bodies. The aim would be to allow Shropshire Council to consider the results in the final formulation of their proposals.

We discussed options for subsequently responding to the Local Plan Review. These include:

- Not making a separate response, with the parish councils, supporting bodies and individuals all being able to respond, using our consultation results as supporting data.
- Submitting a formal response from the Steering Group. This may be most appropriate if there is agreement across the settlement on the terms of any response.

We agreed that this decision need not be made yet and that it can be taken in light of the views of supporting bodies and parish councils.

6. Planning for the Consultation phase

We discussed how to carry out the consultation. We had already agreed to hold public meetings and use an on-line questionnaire.

We agreed to aim to circulate a paper questionnaire as well (which can direct people to the on-line questionnaire), if the funding and effort can be found. It was considered that the number of responses would be increased substantially.

There are a number of options for circulating the questionnaire:

- Henry Carver offered to arrange distribution (alongside other advertising).
- Distribution with What's What.

A print run of about 8,500 copies would be needed, costing around £150 to £300 for printing.

We agreed that a working group will be required to design and run the consultation.

Action 19/10-3: Clive to include a request for volunteers in the next email to our mailing list and also on the web site. Clive to arrange a first meeting.

7. Addressing other issues

We did not have time to consider how to progress working groups on other issues. This will be discussed at our next meeting.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th November at College House, either in the Mayor's Parlour or in the Annexe, commencing at 6.30pm.

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