

Benson Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee Meeting

18 Nov 2016

Minutes

Present: Jon Fowler (JF), Dave Rushton (DR), Edel McGurk (EM), Martyn Spence (MS), Frank Farquharson (FF), Michael Winton (MW).

Apologies - Catherine Murray (CM), Philip Murray (PM)

SC= Steering Committee

Actions highlighted in **bold**

1. Review of Actions from previous meeting

1.1 MS has not received a response from Helene Quenu, and EM has been deferring further discussion with Emma Simpson, pending advice on whether Martin Donegan is willing to lead the task of overseeing plan production.

Action MS to follow up with Helene.

1.2 DR has asked AA for further edits of Community Infrastructure polices.

1.3 JF prompted AA to comment on EM and FF's draft policies which have now been received.

2. Reflections on workshop with RCOH

2.1 JF summarised, for the benefit of those unable to attend, the spatial approach set out by Neil Horner. The discussion led to the conclusion that the most appropriate places for development lie to the north and south of the village. It was also recommended that we look to propose a green infrastructure ring around the village. Ben 2 had been identified as the best site for a community facilities building and homes for young people and families. Ben 7 was thought to be a good place for future graveyard space as it is relatively close to the church, and it has potential to accommodate some houses as well, subject to Defence Infrastructure Organisation's (DIO) various concerns being addressed.

2.2 EM recommended that the SC seek to engage with DIO in advance of settling on site allocations to avoid the risk of objections to our plan as consultation stage.

Action EM to seek contact details for DIO for JF to follow up on in due course.

2.3 JF will send out notes of the workshop when received. (**Action JF**) We will then need to identify polices based on the conclusions including housing policies and proposed densities for the sites/portions of sites we decide to allocate.

2.4 **DR to recirculate link to Ben 2** screening opinion.

3. Drop-in session

3.1 Publicity: DR had circulated in advance a proposal on publicity for the event to be held on 3rd Dec. In PM's absence on holiday, Paul Day has responded to DR's request and will create a poster and update the website. Distribution of the next issue of the Benson

Bulletin is not sufficiently soon to allow us to rely on it to raise awareness of the event, so the SC agreed the need to use other routes to publicise: these include emails via the distribution lists of the Bensington Society and FOBL, and various Facebook pages such as Benson Parish Council, FOBS, and Wallingford Piper.

3.2 The SC concluded that the content of the poster should indicate three main purposes of the update:

- Update on development sites (note this provide an overview of the state of play with regard to sites in the wider area, not just Benson)
- Update on Chalgrove Airfield Development
- Update on Neighbourhood Plan progress

Action DR to brief Paul Day on required content.

Action DR to get the posters printed & laminated

Action DR & FF to put the posters up around the village.

3.4 Event arrangements: The event will be hosted in the Lounge, using the blue boards for displays. Feedback will be captured using a flip chart.

Action All to congregate at the Parish Hall at 9am on 3rd Dec. (EM will be there at 10am).

Action DR to get sundries (tape etc) for displays from Parish Clerk

Action JF to arrange keys

3.5 The material presented at the event will include the following:

- Reminder of housing allocation (from the SHMA), **Action JF** to draft
- State of play with housing sites in and around Benson, **Action JF** to draft
- Update on NP progress (flow diagram) and timeline **Action JF** to draft
- Introduce the thinking that the NP is likely to recommend a small amount of additional development. We need to cautiously mention the prospect of an edge road but without prejudice. **Action JF** to prep
- Policy updates - Transport, Community Facilities, Green Infrastructure. Design will probably not be covered as CM is away. **Action all workstream leads**

3.6. The SC recognised that we are likely to be asked about the implications of revisions to the application on Ben 1.

Action JF to seek an update from SODC.

4. Neighbourhood Plan Website

4.1 The SC discussed updates to the website and what needs to be done to manage the publicity work proposed by DR, including sharing of login details.

Action DR to explore with Paul Day what is required to perform website maintenance over next few weeks.

Action JF to talk to PM on his return re Comms Team workloads and resourcing.

5. AOB

5.1 EM provided an update on a number of conversations with respect to access:

- The National Trails team (contact is Steven Tabbett hosted at OCC) has an interest in our plan, especially around the opportunity presented by the permissive path under the road. The NT team is keen to publicise safe, simple routes to local services to encourage non-local users of the trail to explore the local area, use local services and potentially access other areas of countryside, noting the route up through Ewelme to join the Chilterns Way. The team can offer the help of their volunteers team to create signage. JF noted the PC has substantial resources for signage and art projects. DR noted that this was all very encouraging and could offer an opportunity to revitalise plans to put in place a Heritage trail.
- EM has secured the verbal agreement of Steven Cook (farmer in Shillingford) to creating a permissive path across an area of uncultivated land in his ownership to create a pedestrian link between the proposed nature area at Littleworth Road Phase 2 and Warwick Spinney. The latter is a Benson community owned asset where we have identified a need for improved (safer) pedestrian access. The verbal agreement has not yet been confirmed in writing.

12. Date of next meeting

Weds 7th Dec, 7pm in Parish Hall.