

SHERFIELD ON LODDON PARISH COUNCIL



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE

Minutes of Neighbourhood Plan meeting held on 17th December 2013

Present - John Darker (Chairman), Alan Ball, Ivan Gosden, Bruce Batting, Sandy Johnston, Natalie Larnar, Kym Greener, Bryan Jenkins, Rhydian Vaughan, Steve Levin, Peta Alvares, Sally Brain, Bruce Jones, Ian Wilson, Tony Soane and Peter Hayes (Minutes).

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Oliver Bartrum, Howard Perkins, Sally Hennessey, Deborah Wyatt, Ken Clark and Jan Morgan

2. **Introductions**

JD welcomed new members Ian Wilson and Tony Soane.

3. **Minutes of the last meeting (21/11/13)**

These were accepted without amendment and there were no matters arising which were not on the agenda.

4. **Reports on SWOT survey**

i) Sherfield Village: NL reported on her analysis to date. 51 responses had been received and 19 more were expected to complete the 10% sample. Headline quotes included 'A Little Bit of Heaven' and 'The Quintessential English Village'.

For Strengths local businesses (The Shop; PO; pubs) and the Village Green rated highly; also the village 'feel' (size, shape) and the sense of community.

Headline Weaknesses included a poor bus service, the volume of through traffic; no surgery; activities for teenagers were poor; busy A33.

Commenting on the weaknesses, SL felt that 'lacks easy access to surgery' (ie in Chineham) was more appropriate. B Jen. said that there used to be a Saturday surgery in the Village Hall. JD commented that it now wasn't possible to get directly to the hospital by bus. SB referred to the voluntary drivers' scheme in the village to take the elderly/infirm to the hospital/surgery; B Jen thought that this needed more publicity.

SJ said that there had been a youth club but it had ceased due to anti-social behaviour. JD pointed out that there was a youth club in Sherfield Park (SP), prompting SL's comment that the sort of young people who go there are not those we most need to attract.

Opportunities sought included a surgery, better traffic calming, later bus services, new businesses, youth facilities. B Jen thought that small meeting rooms and managed office spaces would be useful, to support the growing number of home workers in the village.

Headline Threats: development creep/losing green gap, traffic (A33), the infrastructure can't cope, travellers, the expansion of GEMS school. LG commented that the traffic problems caused by the school are a real concern. Overall 'overdevelopment'/losing rural environ stood out.



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NL concluded with two quotes: 'The Village Hasn't Ever Changed' and 'Don't Change It'. She commented that the first was not accurate as she felt that things had changed a lot in her memory. JD thanked NL and her team for the work they had done.

ii) Sherfield Park: SL reported that about 40 responses had been received so far. The Facebook publicity has helped. SP are not using the door to door approach but involving those who attend the community centre. Indications are that everyone likes the sense of community, the architecture and want things kept that way. Issues include: traffic/parking; access to school; secondary options are limited; a 'failing' Ofsted primary; no shop. Sherfield Park needs schools, a surgery and shops. PA commented that a group of mothers have speculated about the flexible use of a shop. SL added that there are concerns about youth, the bus service, Razors Farm and Redlands.

5. Report from NDP training in Bramley (27/11/13)

JD used a powerpoint presentation created by Stella Scrivener (Planning Aid) for Bramley NDP. Key points included:

- Don't try to rush the Plan or it may get sent back by the examiner
- You have to take people with you at referendum
- For planning policies state the sites you don't want developed and why
- The NDP must be consistent with the Local Plan; if the NDP is approved in advance of the LP its evidence can be used to influence planning decisions and help combat unwanted development
- Site assessments: we could use the BDBC matrix (complex?) or devise our own.

JD concluded with the need to get support with identifying policy themes from Planning Aid. The powerpoint will be circulated to committee members.

During the presentation there was discussion of some sites in the parish: an area intended for shops left unfinished by Croudace (SP); a field in SP now up for sale; Church End fields (may be vulnerable); Redlands (may not be developed if isolated from the HCC owned land E of Basingstoke). JD said that discussion with owners of brownfield sites would be necessary.

6. Project Plan

i) Site assessment group (IG;NL:BB)

B Jen. referred to the gantt chart processes and asked when the site assessments might be completed. The AGM in May might present an opportunity to report to local people.

During discussion IW queried if the LP required a housing allocation from Sherfield.

Although there appeared to be nothing specific in the pre-submission LP, SL said that there could be 200 homes unallocated and JD indicated that such numbers would be spread across a number of parishes.

B Jen. said that the NDP was all about building houses and we would look to control number, density and type of housing; all the PC can do is say what the local people want.

ii) SWOT and Questionnaire

B Jen. described the SWOT as the 'initial sample interviews'. NL said that results would be known by the end of January '14 and was of the view that these would help to inform the content of the questionnaire.



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B Jen. said the original plan was to put the information sheet (already prepared) with the 4-page questionnaire in to the February edition of the LVL. He, JD and PH were drafting the questionnaire. The committee's view was that they should approve the questionnaire before it went to the LVL and that it should take account of the different areas of the SWOT. It was agreed that the questionnaire would be sent to them one week before the next meeting (16/1). There might be a slightly different questionnaire for SP. An online version would be prepared and Sally Hennessey had agreed to lead on this.

7. **Dates for initial public forums: 'Find out about your Neighbourhood Plan'**

Due to some 'slippage' on original projections it was decided that the open days/evenings would be postponed until February; among other considerations this would allow more time to publicise them and prepare the content. Plans would be made at the next meeting.

8. **AOB**

Members had been notified of the Planning Camps scheduled for York (23rd – 25th March) and Oxford (3rd – 5th April). PH said that attendees (limited to two per NDP) would only have to pay their travel costs. Anyone interested to let PH know.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 16th January at 7.30 pm.