

## **BOTESDALE AND RICKINGHALL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – Steering Group Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, 14 August 2017**

The Bell Inn

*(Actions in italics.)*

- 1) Welcome – sign in attendance and apologies for absence.

Present – Robin Brown, Alan Dunsire, Di Maywhort, Kevin Parsons, William Sargeant and Leeann Jackson-Eve (Parish Clerk).

Apologies from Sue Coe, Des Bavington Lowe, Jo Broadbent, Jordan Fox, Clive Matthews and Phil Schofield.

- 2) Minutes of last meeting.

The minutes were noted as a correct record.

- 3) Updates on –

- Response to village survey: Leeann reported that to date there had been 248 surveys handed in and 57 done online – total 305 for a 30% response. There had been 23 Youth surveys handed in and 11 done online – total 34 for an estimated 37% response. There had been 19 Business surveys handed in and 4 done online – total 23 for a 15% response. A reminder slip might be needed for the Business survey.
- Collating survey data: There was a long discussion about the Access vs Excel and the possibility of hiring someone to enter all the data. It was noted that Lucy Bishop had agreed to help set up an Excel database if needed. It was thought that it would take roughly 10 minutes per main survey entry for a total of 41 hours. The shorter surveys would be about 3-4 minutes each. It was noted that new entries could be made on Survey Monkey and analysed on SM. *Leeann would double-check that this was possible* and data entry would then be arranged by email.
- Finances: Leeann gave an update on finances and it was agreed with all in favour to apply for further Locality funding to hire Alison Farmer to do the Landscape Appraisal. It was felt that this could not be accomplished “in house” within the desired timescale. *Leeann to apply.*

- 4) Meeting with Tom Barker, MSDC Assistant Director for Planning Growth on 22 August.

Leeann would attend on behalf of the Steering Group and William would attend on behalf of Botesdale Parish Council. Robin would put out a call for any other SG members who might be able to represent the Group. Points of discussion would include:

- Development sites
- Infrastructure
- Whether MSDC could help delay applications due to the lack of a Local Plan.

- 5) Co-option of W Sargeant onto the Steering Group.

This was agreed with all in favour.

- 6) Johnathan Owen, Chief Exec of National Association of Local Councils – NHP Rules and Debate. To note the following:

Two of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 reforms came into force on Wednesday through commencement regulations. Firstly, Section 1 of the Act amends section 70 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to require a local planning authority or other planning decision-taker to have regard

to a post-examination neighbourhood plan when determining a planning application, so far as that plan is material to the application. Secondly, Section 3 amends section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to provide for a neighbourhood plan for an area to become part of the development plan for that area after it is approved in each applicable referendum (a residential referendum and, where the area is a business area, a business referendum). We will keep you updated on other measures when they happen.

The new housing and planning minister, Alok Sharma MP, stated *“the government remain firmly committed to neighbourhood planning”* in a recent adjournment debate in Parliament. He went on to say: *“We all recognise the significant effort neighbourhood planning groups make and that is why we are keen to support them. The Government have made £22.5 million available through a support programme for neighbourhood planning for the period from 2015 to 2018. All groups can receive grant funding of up to £9,000 and priority groups, such as those allocating sites for housing in their plan and those in deprived areas, can receive up to £15,000 as well as full technical and professional support. The housing White Paper... was published in February, set out our commitment to further funding for neighbourhood planning groups in this Parliament.”*

7) Potential new planning applications.

- Land north of Back Hills – It was thought that this was unlikely to come forward soon after discussions with the landowner. The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment had indicated as many as 150 houses in the next 1-5 years.
- Convert newsagent to pizza and kebab takeaway – Possibility noted.

8) Any other Business.

The next agenda would include an item about future contacts, particularly landowners including the School (Governors), the Health Centre (Practice Manager), SCC, the Tophams, Llanover Estate, the Harveys and Simon Burgess.

9) Date and location of next meeting.

Steering Group – Monday, 25 September at 7.30pm, The Bell Inn.

Meeting closed at 9.30.