

Notes of a Meeting held by Zoom on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020

Sutton Benger Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

Restart meeting following COVID-19 Closedown

Attending: Nicola Hayward, Ruth Gaunt, Neil Roynon, David Thomson

Nicola opened the meeting by welcoming those taking part and explained that Jake West was relocating and had to drop out. Neil is the Chairman of the Parish Council and will be joining us.

We had completed a fair bit of work before the pandemic put a halt to progress, but it was thought that it was now appropriate to get back together and pick up where we left off. The early chapters had been just about completed. We were largely there on chapters 1 to 4 and now needed to start looking at the Policies and Policy areas. All of this would be with a view to getting it back out to the Community.

Nicola was to check through the work we had done and allocate tasks to get sections finished – village facilities; and character appraisal photo identification, were two of the areas mentioned. It was thought that Phil Llewelyn might be able to help the group with his project management skills.

The Wiltshire Core Strategy would be a key starting point for our policy drafting – to make sure that we concentrate on where we can make a difference. It was also acknowledged that we didn't necessarily have the key skills to write policies, although we were in a good position to critique draft statements. It was noted that the Core Strategy is already five years old and Wiltshire will be starting the review of the policies. But the main thrust probably will not have changed except that COVID-19 impact needs to be taken into account – especially on housing numbers and probably on office locations as well. Sutton Benger's description as a large village may not be helpful – and it is acknowledged in some quarters that this is just plain wrong and daft. But it is a badge we have been given and can't get rid of yet.

There seem to be six strategic objectives

1. delivering a thriving economy
2. to address climate change
3. to provide everyone with access to a decent, affordable home
4. helping to build resilient communities
5. protecting and enhancing the natural, historic and built environment
6. to ensure that essential infrastructure is in place to support our communities

Neil was asked if he could speak to Linda (Paris Clerk) and see if she would be prepared (for a fee) to look after our finances and keep us up to speed with what is available. It may be that we would have to approach the Parish for further funding if this was thought necessary. The group may know others around the parish that may be interested in specific strategies and could help with local policies.

There may be one or two meetings to play catch up with in terms of Bluestone or Wiltshire Council. These might be able to take place before Christmas. Otherwise, this Group agreed to meet by Zoom until circumstances change. Suggested start time 6pm on alternate Tuesdays. Dates 15<sup>th</sup> December, then 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and 26<sup>th</sup> January. More dates will be fixed later.

David Thomson