

Notes of a Meeting held by Zoom on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### **Sutton Benger Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)**

**Attending:** Nicola Hayward, Ruth Gaunt, David Thomson, Martin Verspeak, Mike Hogben, Neil Roynon: Apologies:- Peter Oldale

#### **To Note**

Phil Llewellyn has had to step down from the group. We thanked him for his input so far and hoped that it might be possible for him to re-join this work at some time in the future.

#### **Minutes**

We looked at and approved the minutes of the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021.

#### **Wiltshire Council (WC) is consulting on its Local Plan**

WC is running a consultation to inform the preparation of their Local Plan, with the draft plan due to be completed towards the end of 2021. The topics covered include the Emerging Spatial Strategy, Empowering Rural Communities and Addressing Climate Change and Biodiversity. Members had read these papers and considered a number of points put forward by members of the Group. We agreed that **David** should respond this evening to the papers, where appropriate picking up the following themes, we:-

1. Expressed disappointment at the almost complete focus on housing, ignoring other economic and social needs in the rural community.
2. Agreed the 40% affordable housing, but had little or no basis to do so
3. Were worried that Permitted Development seemed to lack any sensible control on the actual form the housing extensions took, leading to some incongruous construction. But we felt that preventing domestic extensions is not a good place to start from.
4. Thought that the proposed new core policy was deficient in that it only dealt with housing and not employment or services, both of which are needed to support the increase in housing.
5. Within affordable housing development, we felt the site size criterion for full cost housing should not be changed to exclude 20 dwellings or less, and that it should be retained at 10 dwellings or less.
6. Expressed concern that the Plan seemed to be moving away from numbers to actual site allocations. We were concerned about how this might play out in Sutton Benger where we did not feel the need for any site allocation for the remaining 3 houses required to meet the target.
7. Expressed concern that despite being very close to reaching our allocation, WC were still actively considering a much larger development of 170 houses in the village. This seems (with or without a NDP) to be grossly out of balance.

#### **Communications**

The website has been revamped and add-ons had been added on. At present we have no list of e-mails for consultation purposes and may fall foul of Data Protection issues if we created one from other information. We agreed that if we were to send out a leaflet, we could ask for permission to approach folk by e-mail in the future. **Martin** is also looking at the metrics for the site and it was suggested he use the sbndp e-mail as the central point to pick these up.

## Housing Analysis

Some analysis has been done by Phil, and **David** was asked to pick this up and run with it in Phil's absence, Nicola would check with Phil for any handover documentation and WC may have some statistics that could help, particularly on housing numbers, but also on number of jobs (employees).

## Review and update of NDP

Nicola has finished the skeleton, and with the added statistical analysis available, was in a good position to start the draft of the document proper. **Nicola** will also approach Bluestone to see if they are aware of anything that could help the writing process along.

## Surveys and Analysis

**Mike** has looked through the data and had been able to provide some summaries of the information collected. He had presented a lot of this in tabular form, with accompanying pie charts. This has made the information much easier to understand. The Group thanked him for his input. He also listed some catch all categories for the qualitative data and views expressed. Further analysis could be arranged if the NDP drafting work highlighted the need.

## Green Space Consultation

Our Green Space work has been out to consultation from 20<sup>th</sup> February 2021 with a closing date of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021, but there had been very little feedback from general members of the local public. We agreed to extend the consultation period to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March just in case anyone had missed the deadline. We also agreed that **everyone** is to update the spreadsheet with any comments by Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> ready for walkthrough in the **next meeting**.

## Environment

**Neil** had started his consideration of what issues might be involved but will continue his work on it with a view to having a better discussion in about a month's time. Some of the issues he had picked up on included:-

Land Use;	Carbon Emissions:	Car Travel	Carbon neutral	cycle paths
Car charging	flood risk	Domestic energy conservation		green heating

## Next Meeting

This meeting ended at 7.20pm and we agreed to reconvene again on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 6pm.

David Thomson  
10<sup>th</sup> March 2021

(Note:- Where your name has been **emboldened**, it implies there is an action for you)