

Notes of a Meeting held by Zoom on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021

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

**Attending:** Nicola Hayward, David Thomson, Martin Verspeak, Peter Oldale

**Apologies:** Neil Roynon, Ruth Gaunt, Mike Hogben

**Guest:** Sharon Brentall, Partner at Bluestone Planning, an independent town planning and development consultancy who have assisted the group in the past.

### **Minutes**

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss current issues with Bluestone Planning , so we agreed to leave the minutes to another meeting.

### **Introductions**

Introductions were made and we started with an update on the current state of work completion and explained that we wished to talk through the next steps and what they could do for us under their existing contract. They would also be asked about the timelines for these items of work. We might then go on to discuss further, future, work. To assist, if necessary, the discussion was recorded using the Zoom facility that hosted the meeting.

### **Current Situation**

The Group (in a former arrangement) had received a grant and Bluestone had been contracted to carry out work.

The group raised the current housing situation in that Wiltshire Council has identified the need for a further three housing units by 2036 (part of their Local Plan work). However, an earlier 2015 Housing Needs Survey indicated the need for some nine more mixed tenure housing units. So we had moved away from a Site Allocation approach to an Outcome Related approach.

Bluestone have worked on a Character Appraisal (based on the core village, rather than the Parish area) and a Design Guide. They have presented invoices (which have been paid) for £4,590 plus VAT. **Nicola** agreed to ask Linda for an up to date financial report from the Parish Council. This would also check to see if there were any unspent monies that might be used for future work.

### **Way Forward**

Bluestone can help with the formulation and justification of policies. They could also look at what we have got so far and advise on its relevance and the way it shows progress and change adapting to new circumstances through time. It would be possible for them to specify the work required to move towards an Inspector's report – and to quote for that work. Completion of this work by August is a realistic option.

We would still need further evidence to support policies that restricted building to infill and small scale preference. There are a few trigger points – such as flooding risk arising from the climate emergency. Travel to work may have changed as a result of the pandemic. Wiltshire's Response to Climate Emergency and their Action Plan may have some hooks that we could hang policies from.

The local concerns about the speed and volume of traffic do not appear to be Land Use Planning issues and may not be tackled through this Plan, but there might be a later part of the Plan which looks more towards Community Aspirations on a broader front.

Nicola will go through the work she is currently completing and then send it through to Sharon.

**Next Meeting**

This meeting ended at 7.20pm and we agreed to reconvene again on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm.

David Thomson

24<sup>th</sup> April 2021

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