

Notes of a Meeting held by Zoom on Tuesday 20th April 2021

Sutton Benger Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

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

Minutes

David apologised because he had not managed to complete notes from the last meeting. We agreed to approve those and the session before at our next meeting.

Bluestone Update

Since the last meeting, Nicola had checked that the Parish Council had paid the raised invoices and that there was no funding for this left unspent. Bluestone had indicated their willingness to draft a bid for further grant funding based on their assessment of the outstanding work. We agreed that Bluestone should be asked to prepare a bid for grant funding and quote for writing the NDP Plan policy and wording, with a view to getting the draft ready by our August timeline.

Green Spaces

Following Peter's work, endorsed and agreed by the Group, we noted that it was due to be considered at the next meeting of the Parish Council. **Peter** and **Ruth** to attend.

Housing

The Group noted David's initial e-mail exchange with Rebecca Lockwood-Norris, Wiltshire Council's Community Led Housing Project Manager. It was generally considered that our 2015 Survey was out of date. If we would like to request another survey this would need to be done by the parish council. She could provide more information on the survey process from start to finish, and also how we can address any housing need that is identified, be it through neighbourhood planning and/or through a community led housing initiative. Although Wiltshire Council have moved to an online survey model, but the responsibility for publicity and promotion of the survey remains with the Parish Council, they will assist with creation of publicity materials and then coordinate the survey responses and subsequently develop the report. We would need to initiate the request for a survey through the Parish.

The previous survey's recommendations concentrated on households unable to afford accommodation on the open market, and so needs to be read in conjunction with other measures for housing need.

Definition of Sutton Benger as a Large Village

The working assumption is that the closure of the Chicken Factory led to the loss of employment in the village which may affect the balance of the scoring for a large village. However how the Council built up the figures is not known. Any review of Businesses could be difficult to arrange without a known methodology. A preliminary search through the internet had identified some, but not all of the businesses we could name immediately.

The other issue was that around the village, there was some who thought the Surgery might be closing. This would be seen negatively in the building and individuals in the group agreed to use their networks to see if there was any substance behind these rumours. The loss would be seen adversely by the village, and would not appear to assist in the definition of the planning status of the parish.

Communications

The next phase may need to examine the gaps in our evidence. These gaps may include the number of Businesses, Environmental and Climate Change issues, signing off earlier results.

Next Meeting

This meeting ended at 7.10pm and we agreed to reconvene again on Tuesday 4th May at 6pm. Nicola sent her apologies in advance for this meeting, and after a short discussion we agreed to continue in her absence.

David Thomson

25th April 2021

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