BECKINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
STEERING GROUP MINUTES
Monday 11 August 2025
Conducted by video conference

Present:
Ben Richards (BR), Paula Fox (PF), Clive Winterbourne (CW)

Apologies for absence
Debs Byrne (DB), Georgina Fletcher (GF), Jo Hole (JH), Laura Parry (LP), Alex Richards (AR)

1. **Apologies for absence and Introduction**

Apologies for absence were noted and recorded.

BR confirmed that Brodie Planning had informed him on 6 August that, with regret, they are unable to continue any further work on the Beckington Neighbourhood Plan due to unforeseen personal circumstances that have developed since they agreed to take on the project. The Parish Clerk had been informed.

BR and PF had contacted Locality to ask how they might be able to assist. This would be discussed later in the meeting.

2. **Minutes of last meeting (**17 June 2025)

It was agreed that approval and publication would take place out of the meeting.
Afternote: The approved minutes will be presented at the next meeting. ***Action: BR***.

3. **Actions arising from last meeting**

Evidence document for Vision and Objectives – This had been completed and provided to WH.

Update on LPA Planning Figure - no update received from LPA. Matter ongoing.

External Correspondence - This had been actioned by BR and records updated.

Updated Declarations of Interest – BR had received one submission and requested that remaining members submit. BR stated that, in his opinion, membership of the Parish Council was not an interest that conflicted with the work of the SG: indeed, it was an advantage and the SG had been deliberately designed that way. The Parish Clerk had advised that he agreed with this.

4. **Ongoing/Future work and updates on progress**

Draft Plan – BR explained that the Brodie Planning decision meant that we would not achieve the intended timeline for a draft document and Regulation 14 Consultation. A revised timeline would depend on what support Locality could provide, LPA input on the 5 prospective development sites and how much external consultant assistance the WG requires to prepare the draft NP. It was noted that support from WH would be welcomed

if there are specific questions on the Site Assessments during Regulation 14 consultation. It was agreed that this would be addressed nearer the time. ***Action: BR***

Support available from Locality. PF and BR had consulted Dave Chapman at Locality who had been very helpful in recommending how AECOM might assist (via the Evidence Base and Policy Development (EBPD) technical package) by reviewing draft Policies and identifying whether there was sufficient evidence to justify them. He had also provided further advice on how we might proceed in the absence of Brodie Planning. Options included going alone with technical support from Locality/AECOM and contracting a new external consultant. Locality had now been provided with our Vision and Objectives and a folder containing our evidence base, including the results of all consultations and surveys, and the expert reports produced. PF and BR were due to have a further meeting with Dave Chapman on 28 Aug to identify Policies and gaps in our evidence, and discuss a way forward. This approach was endorsed. ***Action: PF/BR.***

Landscape Assessment – the report from consultant Georgina Harvey was due shortly and would be forwarded to Dave Chapman at Locality as part of the evidence base.

LPA screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The SG noted advice from Dave Chapman that the LPA should be consulted and formally asked for a decision on whether SEA and HRA are required for our prospective sites ahead of Regulation 14 submission. It was agreed that BR would write to the LPA to request this and also request a meeting with the LPA to review progress to date and ensure that there are no surprises when it comes to Regulation 14 consultation. ***Action: BR.***

5. **Consideration of reports received since last meeting**

Local Green Space Assessment – the draft report had been received with recommended policies.

Views Assessment - the draft report had been received with recommended policies.

Local Character Assessment – This has been produced by the LCA WG based on the feedback from the May 15th public consultation exercise and their feedback forms. 7 character areas are identified and explained. This would be updated as required. ***Action: LCA WG.***

Draft Consultation Statement – The draft had been received from the Parish Clerk. It is a live document and will require regular updates, particularly the section on Regulation 14 consultation when we reach that point.

6. **Timeline for Regulation 14 Submission**
It was agreed that this would be reviewed once PF and BR had spoken in detail with Dave Chapman at Locality. ***Action: BR to add to agenda for next meeting.***

It was agreed that BR would produce an update for the PC at their next meeting on 9 Sep 2025 so that councillors were fully informed. ***Action: BR***.

7. **AOB**

BR stated that he had provided the Parish Clerk with the list of outstanding invoices for payment to Brodie Planning for billable work completed to date. This did not include work on the draft plan.

8. **Date of next meeting**
Tuesday 2 September 2025, 7pm.