

MINUTES
BECKINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
STEERING GROUP MEETING
11 November 2024

Present:

Debs Byrne (DB), Paula Fox (PF), Alex Richards (AR), Ben Richards (BR), Sue Shipley (SS), Andrew Tyler (AT), Jennie Tyler (JT), Clive Winterbourne (CW)

Apologies: Sarah Ball (SB), Jo Hole (JH), Laura Parry (LP), Mel Usher (MU)

1. Minutes of last meeting

- The minutes of the 14 October meeting were approved with two minor amendments for clarity. **Action:** AR to publish on website.

2. Actions arising from previous minutes

- Recruitment of a parishioner from Rudge to join the Steering Group – a volunteer has been identified. **Action:** BR to invite.
- Drafting of Aim, vision and Objectives - See item 8
- Call for Sites detail (maps etc) – See item 5
- Views Assessment review by Stuart Todd – See Item 6
- Additional Technical Support (Character Assessment, Green Space Assessment) – See item 7
- Entry for Network magazine (Nov 2024) – completed.
- Publication of Housing Needs Assessment and Design Code documents – these are now on the website.

3. Steering Group Chair

- In the absence of a volunteer to take over from SS, it was agreed that a rolling Chair system would be put in place on a meeting by meeting basis. The Chair would be responsible for coordinating the next meeting, assembling the agenda and the liaising with sub group leads to identify the points for discussion/decision. It was agreed that BR would act as chair for the next meeting in Dec and DB for the subsequent meeting in Jan 2025.

4. Project Plan Overview and Timings

- MU had circulated Version 1.9
- In the absence of both MU and SB, the updated plan was noted. The aim remained to have a consultation event in January on the aim, vision and objectives, with a draft produced in February (See item 8). The Village Hall was booked for an event on Thu 30 Jan 2025. This would be advertised initially via Facebook and the December Network magazine, with further reminders in January. **Action:** Comms Team
- It was agreed that the drafting of the plan must now start to meet the timeline, noting that December and the New Year period are always busy periods.

- JT and DB agreed to draft the plan outline and template. BR would then assign drafting roles in advance of the next meeting. **Action:** DB, JT, BR
 - It was noted that the Plan overview and timeline on the website needs updating **Action:** MU to provide AR with the current one-page summary.
5. **Site Allocation Update**
- The update in November's Network was noted. PF was in touch with Wendy Hopkins (WH) at Brodie Consulting. Replies were coming in ahead of the 29 Nov deadline.
 - It was noted that WH would require factual input from the SG and PC when she reviews the submitted sites.
 - PF and SS would report on the outcome of their next meeting with WH. **Action PF/SS**
6. **Views Assessment**
- A draft report from Steve Kemp (Open Plan) had been received by the sub-group. This was being refined prior to review by Stuart Todd (ST) and WH. Their advice and comment would inform a decision as to whether a Character Assessment report is required. **Action:** CW and DB to lead and lead discussion at the next meeting
7. **Green Space Assessment**
- The sub group is preparing a draft assessment based on consultant guidance. 8 sites have been identified, drawn from the residents' survey input.
8. **Draft Plan – Aim, Vision and Objectives**
- The draft produced by BR and MU was noted. BR explained that the objectives had been derived from the residents' survey feedback and technical assessments. It was agreed that more time was needed for SG members to comment on the draft ahead of discussion at the next meeting, leading to an approved document that can be put to public consultation on 30 Jan 2025. **Action:** BR to circulate, asking for comment to MU by 29 Nov.
9. **Stakeholder Engagement**
- No change to previous meeting.
10. **Budget update**
- No change to previous meeting.
11. **AOB**
- The SG noted media reporting concerning the decision to approve 70 new homes in Congresbury, following a decision by the Planning Inspectorate to overturn a previous decision by North Somerset Council to refuse planning permission.¹ PF had consulted ST who had made the following observations:

¹ <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?caseid=3344142>

- In reaching its decision, the Planning Inspectorate noted that the Local Plan was out of date; housing allocation and supply figures had not been updated since 2018.
 - Although Congresbury had a NP, it was also considered to be out of date, having been approved in November 2019.
- The SG discussed the utility of a NP given that North Somerset's local plan was out of date and that this factor appeared to be the critical weakness. PF advised that anything in a NP not linked to housing numbers would still be relevant in the event of an appeal.
- Date and venue for next meeting. 7pm, Tuesday 17 December, Clifford House