BECKINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING

6pm - Thursday 27th February 2025

39 Goose Street, Beckington

Present: Paula Fox (PF) (meeting chair) Jo Hole (JH) (Minutes), Clive Winterbourne (CW)

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**
   Laura Parry, Ben Richards, Georgina Fletcher, Alex Richards, Debs Byrne

2. **Minutes of last meeting (10 February 2025)**

   Approval and publication

   Minutes accepted

3. **Actions arising from previous meeting (not covered by Items 4 to 9)**

- Locality technical package - Evidence Base and Policy Development (EBPD)
  - we've not heard yet. Locality accepted the application.
  At the PC council meeting it was said the whole programme for the EPBD was oversubscribed. Still awaiting confirmation. We could potentially re-apply if new packages are available in the new financial year

- Response to any queries about the Site Assessments
  NSPG to approach Wendy about how to respond. We've had some questions.

4. **Network magazine articles**
   March Issue *Article about the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation has been inserted in March issue and is ready for distribution. In this article it is said*
   "On 24 January, we published 13 site assessments from our independent Housing consultant. We will be looking to reduce this to a shortlist that can be put to residents in a public consultation that will run from 10 March to 28 April"
   April Issue
   Need to update the parish about the Preferred Site Consultation - JH offered to write this item

5. **Public Consultation meeting - Monday 17th February 2025**

   **55 Attendees. Some might have left by the time they were counted and some had not yet arrived.*
   **37 written responses to the consultation leaflets (some couples put in one form between them)*

   This makes the response rate a very encouraging 67% - extremely high for a written consultation of this nature

- *Next steps - analyse the forms submitted. JH typed up all the responses, however there are some forms with ticks and crosses and other kinds of response.*

ACTION
PF offered to look at the responses on a statistical basis, as she is qualified in this area.

ACTION:

JH sent final version of the 17th Feb Neighbourhood Plan Consultation leaflet to BR on 20th Feb - JH to approach BR to ask him whether he is able to put this onto the website

Any expenses from the consultation event - please send receipts to Paul Russell at parishclerk@beckingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

6. Indicative housing number

The 95 is an indicative number for 2025 - 2040. Wendy Hopkins asked the Parish Clerk to identify the precise site areas towards a calculation of houses per site.

Clive attended a Local Plan Public Consultation working group in Frome on February 11th put together by a consultancy commissioned by Somerset Council whose Somerset East planning policy team were in attendance.

ACTION: *CW and PF follow up for more info.*

- Next steps: approach Wendy with the possibility of LESS than 95.

7. Preferred Site Consultation:

The SG discussed whether the 5 sites so far short-listed by Brodie Planning as the most appropriate in planning terms, should be put to the parish. PF proposed that the other 7 sites (so all12) are included in the survey in the interests of democracy. JH and CW discussed this at great length and agreed that as we are not planning consultants we would refer it in the correct manner to Brodie Planning Associates for their professional advice as to whether to go with the 5 of the 12.
NOTE: Site 3C was split into 3A and 3B

ACTION:
PF to ask Ben's permission to share with the SG the document he prepared for a meeting on 17th Feb 2025 with Wendy.

SG to approach Brodie Planning for further advice.

Brodie Planning are going to send the NPSG the Site Consultation Survey Document. *We need to quantify the page count asap in order to get a quote out and get approval from the Parish Council.*

- Timings - The PC needs to put the quote of costs on the Public Agenda by **4th March** in advance of their meeting on 1**1th March**.

ACTION
JH to contact Wendy to ask for the number of pages for the purpose of obtaining a quote from Postscript.

- Distribution - depending on printing costs and timings, the aim is that distribution will happen some time in the next two weeks. The advice is that the questionnaires have to be numbered and put through the corresponding letter boxes

ACTION:
CW to seek a list of addresses in the Parish from Paul the Parish Clerk

- Collection points - We need more secure collection boxes.

ACTION:

CW to obtain boxes we used before, make them secure and deliver at the appropriate time to sites used before for the first questionnaire

8. Planning Applications Update

Planning Application Number 2025-0276-OUT - M7 - between M&S and the A36 is now live. Wasn't time to put in the Network article.

9. Draft of the introduction section of the NP

Paul Russell has written the introductory section of the NP. We propose commissioning Paul with a second tranche of £750, subject to Paul's guesstimate of the time needed to proceed.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Next SG meeting: TBC