

Winterbournes Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (SG)
Minutes of 8th meeting held on 17th February 2014

Attendance:

Mervyn Pannett (MP), Steve Bucknell (SB), Chris Campbell-Jones (CCJ), Maureen Atkinson (MA), Peter Biggins (PB) and Graham Lloyd (GL).

Apologies: Peter Ostili-East (POE) and Richard Folkes (RF)

1. **Minutes of last meeting.** The minutes of the 7th meeting held on 20th January were accepted and approved.

2. **Matters Arising.**

3.2. There are no current plans to close the DCBR&N Centre which appears to be in a period of growth and so it was considered sensible to revisit this issue, if necessary, at a much later date.

3.7 & 9. The current downloadable map showing the existing settlement boundaries is overlaid in green lines that make it difficult to see. Although SB had the formal action, Sara Hughes (NP Link Officer) had advised MP that she would endeavour to provide a more user friendly one to the SG. SB had parked this action for the present.

4.5. The principles and objectives that are required to support the NP would be discussed under Item 4 - Winterbourne Community Objectives.

5.0. The £7k funding that is available for the NP was planned to be requested in the spring when the NP was due to be formally registered with Wiltshire Council. In any event, MP stated that he had received assurance from the NP Link Officer that any costs associated with the democratic process (eg the referendum) would be borne directly by Wiltshire Council. However, other costs (eg leaflets) would likely be funded from the £7k. GL suggested that both the process for obtaining the funding and a breakdown of funding responsibilities between Wiltshire Council and the SG (and Parish Council), ie the £7k, be obtained from the NP Link Officer. MP agreed to see if this were feasible¹.

Action: MP

¹ Wiltshire Council has a responsibility to organise and meet the cost for the consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation, consultation on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan, examination arrangements and for the Community Referendum. All other costs will need to be met by the 'qualifying body'. (Ref: Neighbourhood Planning: A guide for Wiltshire's parish and town councils).

The question arose, following the negative view expressed by Fred Westmoreland (Unitary Councillor) at the last SG, as to whether a NP was required at all. Further discussion amongst the SG attendees resulted in a unanimous decision that a NP was essential to protect the interests of the Winterbournes, especially if it were supported by the parishioners in a referendum.

Ongoing SG Action

10. The provisional booking for The Glebe Hall would be cancelled (see later).

Action: MA

3. Wiltshire Council NP briefing 11 Feb

3.1 From the briefing, MP understood that The Winterbournes was classed as a 'small village', but previously we appeared to have been classed as a 'large village' (ie Secondary Village²) but CCJ will check the Wiltshire Core Strategy² as this is a fundamental point.

Action: CCJ

3.2 MP advised that the key policy requirements of a large village to define limits of development, presumption in favour of sustainable development within the urban area, overall community development requirement, meet the housing needs of settlements and to improve employment opportunities, services and facilities, etc.

3.3 For a small village the criteria are, very limited development – only infill/generally one dwelling, development limited to that needed to help meet the housing needs of settlements and to improve employment opportunities, services and facilities. Generally, development beyond infill is only through a neighbourhood plan or a subsequent development plan document.

3.4 MP also advised that the Core Strategy had been rejected by the Planning Inspector who had stated that an increased number of houses would be required (total 42,000). Also there was a need for a swift review of settlement boundaries but it was unlikely to happen in the timeframe available to complete the NP process.

3.5 MP said the briefing went on to discuss the Strategic Environmental Assessment used to assess, consult and monitor the likely impacts of NP strategies on the environment with the overarching aim of securing sustainable development.

4. Winterbourne Community Objectives

4.1 The parish must have a robust list of community objectives setting out in the NP how it sees itself developing over the next 15 years or so (eg a solution to the parking

² The spatial strategy for the Amesbury Community Area classes The Winterbournes collectively as a Secondary Village and not a Small Village (checked by CCJ as an action at 3 above)

problems at the Primary School). GL ventured that the starting point would likely be the existing Parish Plan which lists objectives generated by the parishioners themselves in 2009, and it may be a question of merely adding to the list through further consultation. The time had come to accept that a list of objectives was in existence and that together these formed a good platform from which the SG could drive the NP. MP offered to extract a list of the original objectives and email them to members of the SG for comment by the end of the week.

Action: MP

4.2 SB held a strong view that whilst we could register, we could not proceed to an NP without further consultation with the parishioners leading to an agreed list of objectives to take forward into the plan. GL questioned whether the existence of a NP would provide any advantage in building, say, a car park or would the same opportunity arise without a NP? On balance, the SG thought it would.

4.3 The SG agreed that to obtain the prior agreement of a local landowner to sell his land for building in order to meet a NP objective, as advised by the Link Officer, would be a dangerous precedent, especially if it meant changing the settlement boundary. It would be wrong for the SG to be seen as endorsing the commercial sale as an unelected body. This would result in a number of difficult issues to be resolved later.

4.4 The starting point should be to draw up a list the village's aspirations which may or may not lead to firm objectives and ultimately a NP. In order to discover the village's views it would be necessary to consult the community and a public meeting had been planned for 6th March. The SG agreed that it would not be ready to hold the meeting so soon and MA accepted an action to cancel the Glebe Hall booking until a later date.

Action: MA

4.5 MA suggested that it might be a pragmatic way forward if the SG were to put out a flyer/questionnaire (ie as an insert) in the Village Link detailing the "wishes and aspirations" laid down in the Winterbourne Parish Plan 2009 asking members the community whether these were still valid or whether there were new aspirations that need to be reflected as objectives in a NP. The SG endorsed this idea. MP would put together a list, using the Parish Plan and more recent information gleaned at the Wiltshire Council briefings, which he would forward to the SG members for comment. This would then form the flyer for the Village Link with an electronic version on the parish website and the community would be asked to return comments to the Clerk to the Parish Council. The secret would be to keep whatever we do simple and not to over complicate the detail in any resulting NP.

Action: MP

4.6 The next Village link is due to be published at the end of March and the Parish Council would not be able to review the questionnaire until March and so it may be a three step process, with an informative flyer in the Village Link in March and a

questionnaire in the summer with a community meeting in the autumn. MA offered to look at the Glebe Hall diary and see what was available in late Oct early Nov 14, MA suggested there could be the possibility of placing the questionnaire on-line for some people to compete, which is a common way of gaining information nowadays. Having both a paper and an on-line facility would be likely to engage more of the village people (*ps not the pop group*).

Action: MA

5. NP Principles

5.1 No further discussion required at this time.

6. Neighbourhood Area Designation & Registration

6.1 No further discussion required at this time.

7. AOB

7.1 None

8. Date of Next Meeting

8.1 17 March 2014