

**Bidford Neighbourhood Plan**  
**Environmental Issues Working Group**  
**Report June 2014**

**Working Group Members**

**Graham Collier:** Resident of Bidford for 13 years. Chief Estimator for Balfour Beatty Rail Civils based in their Birmingham office for 14 years. Experience in many aspects of the construction industry including roads, bridges, water industry, steelwork, and railway civil engineering. In a previous life was Chair of the Civilian committee for an Air Cadets squadron. Interests include cricket and football, DIY and European caravan holidays to sample red wines!

**Joe Harvey:** Background in teaching and managing in secondary schools, ex schools adviser/inspector, still works nationally on 'health and wellbeing' policy and planning in schools and hospital settings. Currently chair of Planning Committee for Parish Council and co- chair Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

**Jim Langridge (Convenor):** Has lived in Bidford since 1997 and was involved in B50 Appraisal and Parish Plan of 2002/3. Self employed countryside and waterways consultant, specialising in sustainable recreation and tourism, countryside and green space management, countryside access and visitor management. A Director of Bidford Community Library. Interests include walking, gardening and jazz and blues music.

**Elisabeth Uggerløse:** Clerk to Bidford on Avon Parish Council for 10 years and has recently gained a BA (Hons) in Community Engagement and Governance, which included Modules on Achieving Sustainable Communities: Strengthening Sustainable Communities; and Skills for Sustainability.

**Rob Williams:** Resident of Bidford for 12ish years; ex-Parish Councillor, Community First Responder, Area Manager for St John Ambulance (volunteer), School Governor (chair of Pay Committee), Company Director of Office equipment company (just moved to Bidford), Friend of Bidford Community Library, Chair of Crawford Memorial Hall and an allotment holder.

## Remit of Environmental Issues Group

The Group met on 19<sup>th</sup> June in order to consider its remit. We recognised that all working groups were doing this in isolation and that an important task of the Steering Group will be to ensure that there was as little duplication as possible-- although clearly there will be some overlap and links between various topics. 'Environment' can encompass a large amount of what the Neighbourhood Plan will end up examining and we are keen to ensure we do not take on an unrealistic workload!

However, given the strong environmental themes in the neighbourhood planning process and the requirement, flagged up in the Road Map, either for a formal Environmental Assessment or for a statement as to how environmental issues have been taken into account, we see the Group as having an important overview role.

We suggest our remit is as follows:

### 1. Developing an overarching environmental vision

- Establish generic environmental principles which we want the Neighbourhood Plan to adhere to and which people need to be aware of. The Plan process will add flesh to these principles and be able to consider specific sites, projects or issues.

### 2. Sustainable development

The concept of sustainable development underpins the entire spatial planning process. For development to be sustainable social, economic and environmental aspects need to be in balance. However, sustainable development is interpreted differently by different interest groups. The definition in the Road Map is: *Enabling growth to cater for the needs of the current generation but ensuring growth doesn't mean worse lives for future generations*

- Define what sustainable development means in practical terms for Bidford, its people and the Neighbourhood Plan.

### 3. Urban/village design

- The maintenance and enhancement of the distinctive character of Bidford and its surrounds through appropriate enclosure and scale of townscape, retention of landmarks and distinctive features and enhancement of public spaces and the public realm
- Improvement of ease of movement for pedestrians and accessibility for all.

#### **4. Built heritage**

- Conservation of listed buildings and the maintenance and enhancement of the Conservation Area
- The significance of heritage assets as a basis for considering change.

#### **5. Natural heritage**

- Landscape quality and biodiversity, opportunities for habitat enhancement and creation, conservation and improvement of natural assets such as green space, river and allotments.
- Opportunities to improve peoples' access to and experience of green space and the countryside.
- The benefits we obtain from the natural environment (ecosystems services) such as clean air, outdoor recreation, health and well-being, flood alleviation, climate change mitigation.

#### **6. Flood alleviation**

- Development should enhance the ability of the environment to withstand flooding and flood prevention measures should be environmentally sound and where possible multipurpose (e.g enhancing nature conservation and/or access for people)

#### **7. Mineral extraction and restoration**

- Minimise the impact to the local community, road system and environment during the extraction process.
- The contribution restoration of worked minerals extraction sites can make to improvements in landscape quality, biodiversity, public access and enjoyment of the countryside

#### **8. Sustainable transport**

- Sustainable transport facilities such as walking, cycling, public transport, and ensuring development contributes to their improvement.