

Bidford Neighbourhood Plan

Environmental Issues Group

Notes on meeting held on 22nd July 2014

Present: Graham Collier, Joe Harvey, Jim Langridge, Elisabeth Uggerløse

1. Meeting with Matthew Neal 14th July (Elisabeth/Jim)

- MN advised us not to put housing target numbers in the Neighbourhood Plan in case overall Stratford DC figures are challenged in Core Strategy Examination which could leave us open to challenge. (N.b. the DC have not allocated specific numbers to Main Rural Centres, rather they have given figure of 10,880 between the 8 MRCs)
- DC contact re housing projections is John Careford; he is working on a Site Allocation document which will be available in 2015.
- Landscape Sensitivity studies done for MRCs in 2011
- MN offered to review chapters as the NP is written to check compatibility with Core Strategy and other policies
- MN mentioned a number of good examples of NPs to look at including Tattenhall and Eden Vale.

2. Email from Matthew Neal re Strategic Environmental Assessment

- Need to consider environmental implications of the NP and ascertain if an environmental assessment is required
- Potentially an expensive exercise
- District Council has to determine whether environmental assessment is required, in consultation with Agencies (EA, Natural England, English Heritage)
- DC will carry out a Screening Opinion which needs to be done prior to drafting of the full Neighbourhood Plan. We therefore need to develop a Scoping Report at an early stage which contains our Vision for Bidford, our Objectives and our Priorities
- SEA may be needed where NP is allocating sites for development, or where land use plans will lead to significant environmental effects

The Group wish to keep the Scoping Report as concise as possible (10-12 pages?). We need to take advice on what our scale of NP might require.

Action: **Elisabeth** to speak to Neil Pearce and Hannah Barter. **Jim** to Matthew Neal

N.B. Neil Pearce's view is that we should do an environmental assessment or we will be more open to challenge. He will ask the company that did Stratford SEA to give us a quote.

3. Defining Sustainable Development

We must demonstrate how our NP will contribute to environmental, economic and social conditions and consideration has to be given to how potential adverse effects arising from our proposals will be prevented, reduced or mitigated, i.e. how the NP guides development to sustainable solutions.

The Group agreed that these principles will need to be adhered to in all NP proposals. It was suggested that a meeting of Group chairs/convenors should take place following the next Steering Committee to consider proposals from all Groups and avoid overlap.

Action: Elisabeth to circulate to the Steering Group text from Tattenhall NP which outlines the clear approach they took to sustainable development

4. Research

- **Joe and Elisabeth** agreed to meet to look at built environment, i.e. Listed Buildings, other landmarks and Conservation Areas. Meeting 5th August in afternoon
- Similarly **Rob and Jim** would meet to look at natural heritage and access, footpaths, potential new access, also on 5th August. **Jim** to obtain maps etc from Elisabeth prior to meeting.

5. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS). The Group agreed that all developments should incorporate SUDS. This is in line with Core Strategy policies

6. Energy Generation. We agreed that we should recommend that energy generation should be maximised in developments, through solar, wind, ground heat or other means as appropriate

7. Public Consultation. We needed to start thinking about questions for the public consultation questionnaire at this stage. The questionnaire should be succinct otherwise people would not fill it in; perhaps 4-5 questions on each topic. The Questionnaire used in B50 Appraisal could be a starting point. The high rate of return for the B50 survey (over 60%) was due to distributors making personal contact where possible (n.b. collectors earned £1 for each questionnaire returned!). We should try and replicate this success rate for the NP with distributors/collectors nominated for each street where possible.

Action: Jim to try and track down a copy of B50 questionnaire. (N.b. Jim has a paper copy and results!)

All to think about questions on environmental issues for next meeting.

8. Next meeting: Wednesday 20th August at 6.30 p.m. Crawford Hall Meeting Room. Research meetings 5th August with verbal reports to Steering Group.