

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – STEERING GROUP MEETING
THURSDAY 7th August @ 7.15 PM**

Attendants

- **Amenities/communities/recreation Sub Group (Group 1)**
 - Penny Barry
 - Bill Fleming
 - Charlotte RandellChris Hill had sent his apologies

- **Economic & Employment Welfare Sub Group (Group 2)**
 - Jill Houghton
 - Lee PoundLee Pound and Guy Warner had sent their apologies
Carol Ford had advised that, due to new work commitments, she would be unable to continue participating in the project

- **Environmental Issue (Group 3)**
 - Joe Harvey – Chairman of the Steering Group
 - Jim Langridge
 - Rob Williams
 - Eli UggerløseGraham Collier had advised that he would have to temporarily suspend his participation as he was going to Canada for a couple of months.

- **Planning & Infrastructure (Group 4)**
 - Joy Keeley
 - Geoff Price
 - Rob Sussens

- Neil Pearce, Consultant, also attended

There were also 3 members of the public

The Chairman apologised for not having prepared an Agenda and thanked all the groups for having sent their excellent reports well before the meeting.

He then invited all the groups to quickly go through their reports to allow other groups to make comments or raise issues.

- **Group 1 – (Amenities)**

A comprehensive report had been circulated and is attached to these notes of which it forms an integral part.

As with the other groups, they are using the B50 Parish Plan as their template.

As part of the report, an Amenities Audit had been carried out and it was queried, why Newham Primary Care Trust, which is in London, was being used as the standard.

The group felt that in order to proceed, the time had come for a questionnaire to be prepared

- **Group 2 (Economic)**

It was noted that the B50 Parish Plan had not included businesses, therefore there is no template for this group.

Again, a comprehensive report had been circulated and is attached to these notes.

It had been established that the Waterloo Ind. Estate is running very well and to capacity. Whenever a unit becomes vacant, it is immediately taken up.

The High Street is a larger problem, but the Buy in Bidford Group is making efforts to try and bring life back to the centre of the village and a number of possibilities are currently under discussion.

The new growth is in “businesses from home” and it is recognised they may be harder to access.

The intention is to visit as many businesses as possible with a set of questions. Some have already been approached and the one common concern is the poor Broadband facility in the area – much too slow. This risk is that business may move to areas with better and faster broadband facilities.

The issue of whether businesses should have a separate questionnaire was discussed at length, and it was finally decided that, as they are “stand alone” sector within the village, it would seem sensible for a separate questionnaire to go out to them. Those that live in the village will be receiving the main questionnaire in any case.

It was also agreed it would be sensible to have a company audit as this would assist with the employment requirements.

- **Group 3 (Environmental)**

Report from this group has been circulated. It was felt that more information from such bodies as the wildlife trust etc. would be helpful.

Following on from the B50 Parish Plan, better cycle paths should be encouraged and perhaps finally a good foot/cycle path along the Old Railway line from Broom to Welford could form part of the NP.

- **Group 4 (Planning & Infrastructure)**

Report attached.

The group was concentrating in the infrastructure issues and had contacted the main utilities to ascertain whether or not there were any constraints in new development. The reply received from all was NO – they could always cope with new development.

This group also felt the time had come for consultation with the local community to be better able to further the plan.

The Chairman thanked all the groups and suggested the next step should be for 1 representative from each Sub Group to meet to put together a draft shape of the NP to go with the questionnaire, as this should make it easier to engage with the local community and result in more replies. This group would consider as comparative framework documents both the original B50 Parish Plan and the questionnaire used at the time. He asked Neil Pearce to produce a timeline to ensure we keep to the May 2015 timetable.

It was agreed the meeting should take place at the Parish Council Meeting rooms on Wednesday 27th August between 6.00 – 8.00 pm