

Minutes of Meeting of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee
held on Thursday 19th January 2023, at 7.30pm
Online via Zoom

Present: Councillor A Fletcher (AF) (Chair), J Fletcher (JF), J Irwin (JI) and A Knight

Minutes: C Callen (Clerk, Barton-le-Clay Parish Council) (CC)

1. Welcome and Introductions

AF welcomed everyone to the meeting. CC confirmed that as four members of the Committee were present, the meeting was considered quorate in line with the Terms of Reference.

2. Apologies for absence

These were received from R Sheen and Councillors G Widdowfield and N Day.

3. Declarations of Interest

AF reminded members of the procedures regarding declaration of interests. There were no new declarations.

4. Matters arising from previous meeting

CC/GW still to arrange a meeting with the local Doctors Practice to discuss the Plan.

ACTION – CC to arrange a suitable date with the Practice Manager/GW.

Plan to be updated regarding Schools, as discussed at the last meeting.

ACTION – AF/JF to draft a section on Schools for the Plan.

SO to provide an update once the meeting with the Schools of the Future Team has been held with Arnold Academy.

5. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2022

The minutes were approved.

6. Update regarding the Design Code Grant & Process

In November, CC/AF applied for the Locality Grant for Technical Support funding towards the production of a Design Code, to support the Neighbourhood Plan. CC confirmed that following a diagnostic assessment in December, Locality have now confirmed that the grant has been approved. This will fully fund the production of the Design Code. An initial meeting has been arranged with AECOM who will produce the guide on 3rd February with AF/JF/RS/CC to attend. Further details will be provided in due course.

7. Update regarding the Green Infrastructure Plan

The Greensand Trust have confirmed that they have collated and analysed the feedback from the public consultation at the Christmas Lights event in November. Most of the conclusions and key points from the work completed in 2014 have been borne out by this latest consultation. A Local Green Space Assessment will now be carried out before putting everything together into the draft GI Plan. As suggested at the last meeting, various dates have been suggested for members representing the Committee to visit the Woodland Centre to meet with the Greensand Trust and discuss the mapping, etc. in more detail. It was agreed that AK/AF/JF/CC would attend a meeting on Thursday 2nd February 2023 at 2pm. An update will be provided following the meeting.

8. Feedback from the Christmas Lights Switch-on Event 27th November 2022

The Greensand Trust attended the Christmas Lights Switch-on event on Sunday 27th November, to reach out to the whole community for the consultation on the Green Infrastructure Plan. Several members of the NP Committee and CC were also on the stall to speak to residents and answer any questions, both about the Plan and general Parish Council queries.

Feedback has all been very positive, with a wide age range of public visiting the stall, helped by the making of 'Christmas Dragonflies' by the children whilst their parents answered questions! There were 35 stand visits recorded by the Greensand Trust and 24 active engagements.

A further consultation event will be considered once the draft plan is available.

9. Update on Plan following release of latest Census data

The Census data included in the draft Plan was from the 2011 Census. JF has now reviewed the 2021 data and updated the plan where relevant and possible. The current data has not been provided down to individual Parish level at present.

Headline figures showed that the population of Barton has reduced slightly from 4992 in 2011 to 4972 in 2021. They also show that 25% of the population are aged >65yrs. 60% of the housing stock shows poor energy efficiency and there are less properties currently on the market, compared to 12months ago.

With residents choosing to extend their properties and the conversion of many bungalows, Barton is seeing a loss of smaller properties available for younger people and the elderly.

Central Beds Council are one of 10 councils that have been allocated Government funding to facilitate Community Energy Pathways projects which have been launched this month.

Members reviewed the Timeline for production of the Plan.

Any Other Business

There was none.

10. Date of next meeting

It was agreed to meet again on Thursday 23rd February 2023 at 7.30pm online via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.03pm