

Report to Bigbury Parish Council on 10 January 2018

Bigbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Consultation on Vision and Objectives

The consultation on the Vision and Objectives of the plan closes on 12 January 2018. At the time of writing this report we had received some useful comments regarding the need to include an objective specifically relating to agriculture and one relating to sustainability. We have revised the list of objectives to cover these items and are also recommending the inclusion of an objective regarding the need to conserve and enhance the biodiversity value of the parish and to protect and enhance its Green Infrastructure.

Funding

On 15 December 2017 our Parish Clerk made an application to the Neighbourhood Planning and Community Buildings Programme for Technical Support from AECOM, to prepare a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan, and to prepare a Site Options and Assessment. The application also included a request for £1,440 of funding for expenses to include printing, publishing, documents, room hire etc. This application has been successful and initial discussions with AECOM have already commenced.

A separate application was made for grant funding from Locality for Project Support relating to the proposed Community-Led Affordable Housing Scheme. The maximum that we could apply for was £10,000 and the application showed fees for various environmental consultants totalling £9,974.88. This application has also been granted.

Following support given by Wendy Ormsby of SHDC, the SHDC Housing Department have now agreed to take an active part in project management and in providing financial support for the community-led housing scheme. They have agreed to pay the fees of the Architect as well as any other fees which are not covered by those from Locality.

Andrew Kirby Architects have been appointed to prepare an initial scheme for the site and they hope to be able to show us an initial draft concept plan by the week beginning 15 January 2018. If we are happy with the draft concept plan we will then have further discussions with the landowners to get a site option in place. We will also be arranging an event with the local community to discuss the initial draft and to obtain people's views on this. We are proposing to have a series of meetings with parishioners to make sure that the proposed scheme does meet with their aspirations and has the support of the community before we submit a planning application.

List of Local Heritage Assets

As mentioned at the last Parish Council we are now starting to prepare a List of Local Heritage Assets and would like to engage the whole of the community in this process. We

will be asking parishioners to put forward their ideas by completing nomination forms which will be placed in the Holywell Stores. The forms will explain the process and give people a chance to put their ideas forward for consideration. Ideally any assets put forward should be first discussed with the owner of the property or site but this can be done at a later date if necessary. The completed forms can be placed in the Neighbourhood Plan Box which will be left at the Holywell Stores or can be sent to Valerie Scott or to any other member of the Steering Group. Photographs and reasons why people consider the asset to be of heritage value would be helpful.

As part of the process we would like to engage the youth of the parish to play an active part in the selection and will be arranging a series of events to include surveys of the villages and other parts of the parish as part of this exercise. If parents or guardians of children/teenagers who would like to take part in these surveys could contact me this would be helpful.

The list of heritage assets will be considered by a working group of people with a particular interest in local history, architecture or heritage and the completed list will then be reported to the Parish Council, prior to being sent to SHDC for ratification. Anyone interested in being on this working group or assisting in the surveys should contact Valerie Scott.

Steering Group Secretary

Karen Lawrence has agreed to take over from Hazel Osborne as secretary for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Karen with her experience and expertise in graphic design will also be a great asset in terms of being able to prepare some of the artwork for the Draft Neighbourhood Plan which is currently in a text format only.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hazel for the work that she has carried out as our secretary. She has done a superb job and she will be greatly missed.

Valerie Scott, Chairman of Bigbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

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