

AWBRIDGE NDP WORKING GROUP
NOTE OF MEETING ON THURSDAY 9 MAY 2022

Attendees: [REDACTED]

Apologies for absence: [REDACTED]

Note of meeting on 17 March 2022: No corrections were proposed to the meeting note. Identified actions had been completed. DC had compiled a first draft of some text summarising background information about the community (assisted by the Welcome Pack that FT had sent to him), and would circulate it after the meeting.

Action DC

GP had obtained a copy of the most recent SHELAA, which identified several proposed sites for development in the Parish, outside the current settlement boundary. While these were only preliminary proposals, we should bear them in mind when drafting the NDP.

Presentation by Sharon Brentnall (Bluestone Planning) and questions from Working Group: Sharon Brentnall presented a helpful overview of the ways in which she and her colleagues might be able to help us in developing the NDP. The extent of her involvement could be tailored to the wishes of the Working Group, but might include compilation of evidence in support of: the level and type of development that we should aim for (possibly entailing a character appraisal and design guide for different parts of the village); open spaces and wildlife corridors (including particularly valued views); heritage assessment; and longer term aspirations relating to land-use (e.g. for new permissive footpaths). Depending on the wishes of the Working Group, she could join us for tour of the parish to assist in this work.

She recommended that we consider an annual subscription to Parish Online (£100 p.a.), which was a useful source of information.

Funding (up to £10,000 plus a possible further £8,000 for specifically identified items of expenditure) to support her consultancy could be sought from national government through a "Locality" scheme, and if engaged, she would be pleased to help us in completing the grant application (which would need to be submitted by the Parish Council).

She emphasised the importance of engaging as widely as possible with local residents to ensure that the NDP that was eventually put to a referendum would reflect the views and wishes of most people in the parish, and adequately covered their concerns. This could be done through informal networks, including the around the school and church, and also through a further questionnaire. However, we should take care not overload people with a large survey, and perhaps aim to target questions particularly to evidence that could support policies and aspirations that were under consideration for inclusion in the NDP.

People with connections to the parish (e.g. through the church or school) but living elsewhere could help to shape the NDP, but could not vote on its ultimate acceptance.

Discussion on engagement of consultant and funding:

Following the above presentation, the Working Group agreed unanimously that they would like to engage Sharon as a consultant, provided the scope and costs of her proposed work were satisfactory. To this end, Sharon undertook to send us options for the work that she might undertake on our behalf, with costings.

Action SB

Any other business

There was no other business.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 6 June at 7.45 pm (availability of the village hall has been confirmed).