

AWBRIDGE NDP WORKING GROUP

NOTE OF MEETING ON MONDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2022

Attendees: [REDACTED]

Apologies for absence: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Note of meeting on 15 August 2022: This was agreed without amendment. All actions had been completed except that for various reasons the Parish Council had not yet held its September meeting, and the outcome of the application from the Parish Council to TVBC for £1,000 was still unknown. David Coggon would check with Ian Milsom (Parish Clerk) at the meeting of the Parish Council which was now scheduled for 28 September.

Vision statement: The wording of the draft vision statement was discussed and amended slightly to:

Over the next 15 years, we wish to sustain and nurture the features of our village that contribute positively to quality of life and the local environment, through a carefully managed ecological approach that facilitates sustainable growth whilst maintaining a high-quality landscape. To that end, we aim to maintain the distinctive structure of the village, with almost all housing disposed linearly on through roads or lanes, and grouped in small hamlets separated by green spaces. The rural character of the village should be promoted through publicly accessible green spaces and gardens in keeping with the character of the area and sufficient to meet the needs of the occupants. These should link to open countryside directly, or via green corridors, thereby helping to support biodiversity. New housing should be modest in scale and size, making it better suited to young families and older people wishing to downsize, and sympathetic to the nature of existing buildings with respect to materials and design.

This would form part of a wider consultation with the local community in December to gauge levels of support for the draft NDP as it evolved, and where necessary make amendments (see below).

Objectives: The vision statement needed to be amplified in a more detailed statement of objectives, focusing on matters that were specific to Awbridge, and not already covered adequately by the TVBC Local Plan. A template of possible topic areas had been circulated in advance of the meeting, and several members had made suggestions and comments in correspondence. The Working Group discussed each topic area in turn, identifying those topics which it would be worth addressing, and the objectives that should be sought in relation to those topics. On the basis of that discussion, Sharon Brentnall undertook to draft text for the objectives that would be circulated to members in advance of the next meeting. Once draft objectives had been finalised, they too would be included in the wider consultation with the local community in December.

Action: SB

Communications with Awbridge School re travel plan: In response to an email from Jo Lees, Awbridge School had indicated that they have started to look at a travel plan for the school, but are still working on it. They had undertaken to share further information when available.

Information obtained from Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre partnership: Louise Preget had obtained extensive ecological information from Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre for Awbridge, and this had been passed on to Sharon Brentnall to be used in the drafting of her appraisal document.

Information on small businesses in Parish: Fred Tucker had obtained further information about small businesses in the Parish. There were quite a few small enterprises (in many cases a single individual), but members were not aware of any major changes in recent years, and none were expected in the foreseeable future. On balance, it was decided that there was no need to include a section on local businesses in the NDP.

Update from Sharon Brentnall on development of text for draft NDP: In advance of the meeting, Sharon had circulated a first draft of material for an appraisal document, including photographs and maps. In discussion it was agreed that the four hamlets which make up the community of Awbridge are: Kents Oak (including Saunders Lane, Cowleas Cottages, Lockerley Road and the top parts of Danes Road and Romsey Road), Upper and Lower Ratley (which are now conjoined, and include Church Lane and the housing on Danes Road at the top of Church Lane), Awbridge (including the bottom end of Romsey Road, the top of Dunbridge Lane and the west end of Stanbridge Lane) and Awbridge Hill (Stanbridge Lane east of Coombe Lane).

Any other business: Looking beyond the drafting that was now underway, it was important to plan for the next stage of consultation with the local community to ensure that the work which was being done by the Working Group was in line with people's views. It was agreed that the Group should aim to circulate a short report and questionnaire to all households in the Parish with the December edition of the Awbridge News (copy required by 15 November). That would include the draft vision statement and objectives with a request for comments, and a few questions seeking background information that had not already been collected through earlier surveys (e.g. on distance to main place of employment for those working and methods of travel, observed presence of rarer wildlife species in different parts of the village).

As a prelude to that communication, a short article should be included in the November edition of the Awbridge News, for which David Coggon would draft text (deadline 15 October).

Action: DC

Depending on responses to the written consultation, an open face-to-face meeting might then be held in the new year.

Members attending the meeting, and also Gordon Piper, had completed conflict of interest statements, which would be forwarded by David Coggon to Ian Milsom. Other members would be asked to complete forms when they next attended a meeting of the Working Group.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be in the Committee Room of the Village Hall on Monday 24 October at 7.30 pm, with Sharon Brentnall attending by Zoom.