**Bridstow Neighbourhood Plan Working Group**

**Notes of the Meeting of the**

**Bridstow Neighbourhood Plan Working Group**

**held on Tuesday 11th July 2017 at 8.00pm**

**at Bridstow Parish Hall**

**Present: George Barrett, Robert Blackman, Rachel Bushell, Eric Casstles, Jonathan Davis, Nicola La Grue, Stephen Machin (Chair), Amanda Smith (Cllr) and Julia Wilde**

**Bill Bloxsome (Data Orchard)**

**Local residents**

**01 Apologies and Resignations**

Apologies for absence were received from Joanna West.

Barbara and Haydn Dix (who volunteered to join the group at the last meeting) and Gordon Owen resigned.

**02 Parish Council Points**

Points for consideration by the NDP working group that had been reported from the last Parish Council meeting were discussed. It was decided that no Vice Chair is needed, questions would be taken from the audience as required, and a small working group had already been helping to draft a proposal for site selection. Voting was also discussed, and it was agreed that open voting by the group would generally be held, with a secret vote if considered appropriate. For the scoring of the sites (see Item 03 below), it was agreed that the individual scores of working group members would be kept as data on file, to be viewed as applicable, and that the overview of scoring etc. would be presented in the plan.

George Barrett noted that the group’s terms of reference seek to ensure that the group is representative of the main areas within the parish, and he expressed concerns about majority voting given that there were different numbers of people from different areas in the group. It was responded that frequent attempts had been made to recruit working group members at meetings since we starting having an audience. As a result, at the last meeting, 3 people from Wilton had volunteered, but 2 of these had since resigned because of the nature of group email correspondence after that meeting. (See also Item 03 below - e.g. re: scoring of sites by group members to the best of their ability, and ultimate sense check vs. questionnaire results.) Subsequent to the meeting, it has also been pointed out that the Group produced a 'recruiting' poster that was displayed on the wall at the Consultation Open day. This had a far larger audience than our current working group meetings.

**03 Site Selection Process**

The general concept (spreadsheet for site selection scoring) was described by Jonathan and discussed by the group, with questions from the audience. The group voted unanimously to accept the general concept, with the caveat that a sense check would be done after, to ensure it was consistent with the results of the questionnaire, and further process tweaks may be needed, e.g. possible additional weighting for some criteria. Some criteria may also be ‘deal breakers’ if scoring a 5 (e.g. major development criterion).

It was discussed that every member of the group would do their best to score the sites as best as possible, preferably after having been to look physically at the sites.

For the assessment of ‘major development’, it was considered that the scale of development should be looked at in relation to existing settlement density. When scoring, the proposed number of dwellings would be taken into account (per separate site description sheet), but an appropriate footnote/comment should be made. Additionally, if the site had a public benefit, a note should be made.

It was noted that permission had been given for some houses in Glewstone. Only a small part of Glewstone is in Bridstow Parish, and the actual new development is apparently not in our parish. However, a resident (Carrie Jones) offered to see if the settlement in Glewstone that is currently part of Marstow Parish could be considered relevant to the Bridstow NDP process (e.g. through cross boundary settlement). Bill confirmed it was a named settlement in the Core Strategy.

It was suggested that the site presentations should be appended to the plan, so that it was clear what the scoring was based on.

The site criteria as presented were discussed, and some deletions / edits were made. Jonathan Davis will send a revised spreadsheet for each member of the group to record their scores. Everyone will email their completed spreadsheets to Nicola La Grue, in confidence, who will compile the data (total the scores) and send out before the next meeting.

**04 Any Other Business**

No time for this.

**05 Date of next Meeting**

Tuesday 15th August starting at 7.00pm and finishing by 8.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.