

Old Basing & Lychpit Parish Council

Neighbourhood Plan Update

Meeting Notes

10th May 2023

In attendance: Councillors David Whiter (DW), Murray Campbell (MC), Roger Doust (RD), Kate Tuck (KT), Alan Renwick (AR), Gillian Moore (GM), Charlie Butfoy (CB), Francesca Maritan (FM), Peter Bloyce (PB), Sheena Grassi (SG) and Kate Hope (Deputy Clerk) (KH).

1 APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

2 PUBLICITY & COMMUNICATIONS

- a AR shared all printing costs to date and confirmed that MC is keeping a record of the expenditure – 3200 Basinga inserts cost £358.00 and 3 A1 posters cost £110.00 to produce. £468.00 has been spent to date.

3 FUNDING & EXPENDITURE

a Consultant replies, Interviews & Potential Costs

Two proposals have been received by MC, who reported that both were of a high standard, but vastly different in cost. The process continues and meetings will be held with three potential Consultants in due course.

b Funding

There is still no news of Government support with funding, so it's possible that the Parish Council will need to cover all associated costs.

MC confirmed Publicity expenditure as above, but clarified that as £358.00 was spent in the FY2022/23, only £110.00 of the £2,000.00 budget set aside for FY2023/24 has been spent so far. Earmarked reserves may be required to support any greater costs.

4 REVIEW OF OBJECTIVES

a Combining Objectives

CB asked whether it might be possible to combine and condense some similar objectives, to keep the total number as low as possible to best engage the reader. DW countered that making objectives too long can detract from their effectiveness.

KT asked why multiple occupancy dwellings had been extracted and CB suggested that the need to be identified as a valid, specific point to ensure such dwellings are considered appropriately. KT would prefer this information to be incorporated into the 'Housing Mix' explanation, to refer to it appropriately and encourage such development, but not similar 'student' HMO properties which would not suit the local area.

MC suggested that using words like 'discourage' and 'encourage' is weak.

KT remarked that all phrasing should be positively framed. She recommended the Benson, Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plan as a useful reference in this respect.

Possibly a phrase such as 'Housing Mix that the demographics of our ward requires' would suffice? Evidence will be needed to back up such statements.

FM is concerned that the objectives are getting repetitive. A careful review will be needed to fine tune all wording and keep it tight.

PB suggested that the group doesn't lose sight of the Housing Register, the number of people locally who need houses and the demographic of those people. *(AR left the meeting at this point – 11.30am).*

Everyone was in favour of including all housing mixes. It was noted that there are people such as keyworkers who need bespoke buildings such as a converted

existing housing stock like Crossways at Five Ways Junction/Milkingpen Lane. “A mix of dwellings suited to the needs of the community”.

Objective 8 – GM had looked at the Village Design Statement and Echinswell Neighbourhood Plan. The group considered whether the Village Design Statement needs updating, but recognised that the project would be a lengthy operation.

GM asked that artificially flat areas are avoided as they aren't in keeping with the natural landscape. She also suggested that exceeding biodiversity goals should be aimed for. It was agreed that objective 8 will be reworded and a new objective (8a, for now) will be created to cover green and blue infrastructure (SG suggested that this objective ultimately should be located higher up the list as a whole).

It was suggested that objectives 1 and 2 are combined.

It was suggested that objectives 4 and 5 are combined.

It was suggested that objectives 9 and 10 move to being an objective which specifically explains the appropriate housing mix of the locality (p38 of the current Neighbourhood Plan).

5 EVIDENCE LOG

- a DW asked FM to begin building the Evidence Log, with copies of publicity, public responses, the questionnaire and outcomes (when they are done), etc.

The next meetings will be held on the following dates at 11.00am in the Parish Office:

7th June 2023 – MC has agreed to Chair the meeting.

5th July 2023