

# MINUTES OF BEARLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2015 at 7.30pm Bearley Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Stephenie Hawkins, (Chair), Caroline Taylor, David Hotten, Jonathan Smith, Steven Evans, James Maiden, Carolyn Phillips, (Secretary)

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr Arslan Erinmez, Cllr Jo Wall, Ken Lillie

**ATTENDING:** Paula McCleod, Dawn Kitchener (residents)

No conflict of interest declared.

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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

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The government has indicated that Neighbourhood Planning Groups can only act as an advisory group to Parish Councils.

**Stephenie will amend the Terms of Reference to better reflect this role and circulate for approval for submission at next Parish Council meeting on 14 September 2015.**

[Post meeting: Draft amendments circulated to Steering Group members on 29 August 2015 for comment.]

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## NATIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATES

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The Parish Council receive neighbourhood planning updates from Planning Aid and the DCLG by email. Those dated July 2015 have been forwarded to Stephenie and hard copies were made available at the meeting. Stephenie requested that Steering Group members advise her if they wish to have the July 2015 emails, and any future email updates she receives, forwarded.

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## CORE STRATEGY UPDATE AND IMPLICATIONS FOR BEARLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

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Following on from the inaugural meeting of 22 June, the Steering Group looked in more depth at the emerging Core Strategy, focusing on Polices CS10 Green Belt, CS15 Distribution of Development and CS16 Housing Development, to:

- Decide if Bearley should make representations to the forthcoming Core Strategy consultation; and
- See whether Bearley should pursue a Neighbourhood Plan or seek to influence the Site Allocations Plan.

**Core Strategy consultation:** All agreed that there probably isn't a need for Bearley to comment, given the revised approach to LSVs in the Green Belt, as previously presented to the examination, and that the consultation is likely to focus on unresolved housing issues, such as new allocations. Agreed that Steering Group members will review this when the consultation formally opens and documentation is available.

**Stephenie to inform Steering Group members when the consultation opens and direct them to the documentation.**

[Post meeting: Consultation opened on 13 August 2015 and a link to the online Core Strategy consultation was sent to Steering Group members on 15 August 2015 inviting comments. No views expressed contrary to general consensus formed at the Steering Group meeting of 3 August 2015, that is, that there is no need to

make representations. The Parish Council is to be informed of this, but noting the decision as to whether representations are made rests with the Parish Council.]

**Neighbourhood Planning in Bearley:** The group were unable to reach a conclusion on whether preparation of a plan should be proposed as there are still several points that need to be clarified before an informed decision can be made. Noted that a Neighbourhood Plan would need financial support/time commitment.

Areas for clarification:

- Interpretation of Core Strategy policy;
- Approach that the Site Allocations Plan will take;
- Relationship between Site Allocations Plan and Neighbourhood Plan;
- Timescales; and
- Parish Council/community involvement in Site Allocation Plan.

[Post meeting: Additional point for clarification raised by a member of the Steering Group – that is, defining an appropriate level of housing to be accommodated within Bearley.]

Agreed to invite Matthew Neal, the District Council's Neighbourhood Planning Officer, to attend the next meeting of this group, sometime around mid-October, at a date convenient to him. Questions will be sent to Matthew beforehand. Agreed that the invitation would be more appropriate to come from the Parish Council, if the Council agrees.

**Stephenie will draft suggested invite and questions to circulate to the group for comment before submission to the Parish Council.**

Considered that some questions may be best directed at strategic planners. Agreed a co-ordinated meeting with other villages and strategic planners would be ideal. To be reviewed, depending on outcome of meeting with Matthew Neal.

[Post meeting: Draft invite and 'questions' circulated to members of the Steering Group on 29 August 2015 for comment.]

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## **GREEN BELT REVIEW**

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Limited information, but on available information there is a Warwickshire wide review in two phases - first phase, local authorities with closest links to Coventry; second phase, North Warwickshire and Stratford having closer links to Birmingham. No implications for Bearley at this stage. Need to keep under review.

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## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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To be arranged after clarification from Matthew Neal on attending meeting, likely to be mid-October 2015.