

Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment Committee meeting held at 10.30am on Tuesday 13th October 2015 at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green

Present: Cllrs Susan Whitehand (Chairman), Rosemary Briggs, Robert Cholmondeley, Charles Hotham Associate member, Diane Carr

In attendance: From 11.30am, Mike Dunphy, Strategic Planning Manager, Bromsgrove DC Executive Officer, Gill Lungley

15/28	Apologies None.
15/29	<p>Declaration of Interest The requirement to keep the Register of Interests was noted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The dispensation granted to Cllr C Hotham at the parish council meeting held 02/09/2015 is in place until May 2019; this allows Cllr Hotham, who is also a member of the District Council's planning committee, to stay in the (parish council) meeting but not speak or vote when planning applications are considered by the parish council. 2) Cllr Hotham submitted a dispensation request seeking to be allowed to stay in the meeting, speak and vote when matters relating to his interest in Cock Croft Wood and land bordering, but not in, the parish may arise. This was granted on the grounds that Cllr Hotham: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) As a parish councillor has a responsibility to participate fully in the business of the parish council; b) Is a member of the parish council Neighbourhood Plan Committee which has decision making powers, and c) Has no direct financial interest in land within the parish boundary.
15/30	<p>Minutes of the last Neighbourhood Planning and Environment Committee meeting The minutes of the meeting held 11/09/2015 were approved and signed.</p>
	<p>Public Question Time This was not required.</p>
15/31a	<p>NDP community questionnaire Each members provided possible questions for the community questionnaire:</p> <p>Cllr Hotham (Health and Well-being)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> H1. With the pressure for spatial expansion on the doctor's surgery should an alternative site be identified via the Green Belt review? H2. Should a circulatory bus service be made available servicing the greater Barnt Green area? <p>Cllr Cholmondeley (Transport)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> T1. Should parking be made available for rail commuters at the BG Social Club, with access to the station via Hewell Lane/platform 3? T2. Should pavements and/or cycle-ways into and out of the village centre be paved? T3. Would there be support for the installation of a travel kiosk on the west-side of Hewell Road to include bus and rail travel information? T4. Should cycle racks be provided outside the shops and outside the railway station? <p>Mrs Carr (Economy)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> E1. Should part of Millennium Park be used for car parking, chevron-style?

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- E2. Should the current core retail area be re-developed?
- E3. Should the current bus shelter be re-located to free-up space for parking?
- E4. Should parking restrictions in Hewell Road be extended to 2 hours except for the Tesco block which is one hour OR should parking in Hewell Road be charged if staying for longer than 2 hours?
- E5. Should funds be spent on environmental improvements such as planters and better pavement surfacing?
- E6. Do you shop in the village? Do you drive? Do you live in Barnt Green and drive to the station?

There was discussion on all these points, with members agreeing that a plan to tidy the village is needed now rather than at the end of a 15-year plan period. Regarding T3, T4, T5 these could possibly be carried out outside the Plan. Regarding E1 it was believed the Park is held in trust and cannot be parcelled off for any other use.

Mike Dunphy arrived and considered the above questions:

- H1. (Doctor's surgery) Will need to prove a new surgery is needed, consider how the new-build would be funded and whether it would be on green-field site, ie what is the reality?
- H2. (Circulatory bus service) The issue is funding. Possible funding via Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) that determines the S106 levels. The annual cost of such a bus could be IRO £60k - £80k which, to satisfy S106 funding, would indicate a very high level of new housing/development. Also, unless the bus service is available from the start then people won't use it, having got into the habit of using alternatives.
- T1. (Car parking at Social Club and new pedestrian access to railway station).
- T2. (Paved footpaths/cycle-ways into and out of village centre). This would probably not be approvable by WCC as highways authority although walking should be encouraged.

With regard to parking MD commented that the NDP procedure could not be relied upon for solving all problems within the community. Four main topics were identified – parking, doctor's surgery, school (both have pressure for places and insufficient capacity to expand) and environmental appearance. It was suggested that we could carry out an audit of the high street and identify the parts that are not liked then lobby for improvements; such actions need to be tempered with realistic/realisable aims. The above issues could possibly be solved via the Green Belt review, but would this be seen as an acceptable way forward?

With regard to the issue of identifying specific sites for future development, it was suggested that the landowner's agreement is not required as long as the landowner is notified of the intention to ask the question. Respondents could be asked to prioritise sites although when putting maps and plans together MD advised 'vague is best'. A better approach might be to highlight back to residents the big issues, eg parking, school capacity, doctors' capacity and say that the only way to make progress is if change takes place. So, a housing scheme may trigger an extra classroom but the difficulty is framing the question to reach an acceptable solution.

Thus, having carried out a housing needs survey and identified housing is needed for the elderly and for young start-ups, then the question could state that development for new housing is inevitable in which case which 'issue' should be solved first and ask for specific sites to be identified for specific uses.

The overarching concern is that the plan needs to be done on a scale that is achievable.

Certain issues have been identified (school and doctor's surgery) and further meetings are needed to establish the best way forward. As it is known there is a problem then should the parish council act as a catalyst to solve it?

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	<p>It was agreed to write to the school, surgery and Quakers to arrange a meeting; MD would be happy to attend. MD left the meeting.</p>
15/32	<p>Planning</p> <p>Log009 application no. 15/0823 address: Woodlands, Fiery Hill Road Proposal: One single storey apartment and ancillary parking/landscaping PC Comment: to be firmed up, based on observation that, as yet, there has been no characterisation of the Barnt Green conservation area meaning it's difficult to comment on the endemic character. However it appears to be out of keeping with the surroundings where there are no other sub-ground level buildings fronting the road.</p> <p>Log010 application no. 15/0200 address: Second Ground Barnt Green Cricket Club Cherry Hill Road Barnt Green Worcestershire B45 8LN Proposal: Protective netting to stop cricket balls entering into a new housing development from the adjacent cricket pitch. PC Comment: No objection.</p>
15/33	<p>Environment</p> <p>Trees: Bromsgrove DC would be asked which trees in the parish are protected with Tree Protection Orders.</p> <p>Network Rail: It was agreed to write to Network Rail regarding the closure of the footpath between Barnt Green and Cofton Hackett.</p>
15/34	<p>Councillors' reports and items for future agendas</p>
15/35	<p>Date of next meeting The date of the next meeting is 11/11/2015.</p>

The meeting closed at 13:30hrs.

Signed: _____
Susan Whitehand, Chairman

Date: