

Barnt Green Parish Council

Minutes of the **Neighbourhood, Planning and Environment Committee** meeting held at 10.30am on Friday 11th September 2015 at 80 Hewell Road, Barnt Green

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

In attendance: Executive Officer, Gill Lungley

15/20	Apologies Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Robert Cholmondeley and accepted.
15/21	Declaration of Interest The requirement to keep the Register of Interests was noted. 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.
15/22	Minutes of the last Neighbourhood Planning and Environment Committee meeting The minutes of the meeting held 06/08/2015 were approved and signed.
	Public Question Time This was not required.
15/23	Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Comment was made about the role of the district council now that there is doubt about the future of the District Plan, the likelihood that the Green Belt review will start earlier than expected and the possibility of the district becoming part of the West Midlands proposed metropolitan area. The Chairman had attended a working party meeting for the Alvechurch NDP which seems to be making good progress. Examples of other NDP's had been found online and others would be viewed for ideas and tips. Funding will be applied for when required in the new year to pay for professional advice; informal advice might be sought out in the meantime. The district council already receives funds for each designated Neighbourhood Area to provide assistance to each NDP group. An officer will be invited to this group's next meeting. It was noted that the plan could not identify specific sites for development, but could possibly include this information in a 'monitoring report' rather than in an index.
15/23a	NDP working groups No reports were presented. The Chairman had been notified of the membership of each group. There will be a certain amount of cross-over between the work of each group so that work can be pooled in due course.
15/23b	NDP community questionnaire Each working group was asked to produce five or six questions on their topic for the questionnaire. The general style of question would be to elicit either a 'yes' or 'no' response and to remove the opportunity for 'don't know' or 'don't care either way' answers. The introduction would be based on feedback from previous consultation, eg 'you said that, now we propose this...'

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	<p>To encourage engagement with the questionnaire it was suggested that pictures and photographs should be used, and all residents would receive a copy.</p> <p>One question could be to choose between development of brownfield sites v green belt development; one brownfield possibility could be the re-development of the shop units 26 – 32a Hewell Road to create a mix of retail and residential and better parking accommodation.</p>
15/23c	<p>NDP Policies Members would view existing examples for clarification of what is required.</p>
15/24	<p>Planning A planning application had been notified the previous day, which was the re-submission as a full application of a previously withdrawn application relating to 33 Blackwell Road. No new plans were available on the public access website. Members would consider a response in due course.</p>
15/25	<p>Environment It was agreed that council funds should not be spent on improving private property but the extent of the work to be expected from the Place Team, the County Council and the parish council's own contractor was uncertain following both the change of highways contractor and EO. The EO was to meet with the individual contractors to assess each area of responsibility and will report to the next parish council meeting.</p> <p>There was a question about whether any trees are covered by a Tree Preservation Order and what work can be carried out if a resident has concerns. It was noted the Tree Officer at Bromsgrove DC should be contacted in such cases.</p>
15/26	<p>Councillors' reports and items for future agendas The Chairman had recently attended the Bromsgrove area meeting of the County Association of Local Councils (CALC), and the district CPRE meeting which is soon to celebrate its 60th anniversary with a walk between the Lickey Hills and Bittell reservoir. A meeting has been arranged for parish councils and BDC planning officers on 15/09/2015.</p>
15/27	<p>Date of next meeting The date of the next meeting is to be arranged for the second week of October.</p>

The meeting closed at 12.40pm.

Signed: _____
Susan Whitehand, Chairman

Date: