

Bures Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting
7.30 Monday 6th February 2023
The Garrad Room Bures Community Centre

Present: Robin Hamilton, Richard Adams, Gill Jackson, Richard Shackell, Ken McAndrew, Heidi Winch, Jane Chambers

1. Apologies for absence

Jan Stobart, Nigel Cowlin, Jenny Wright, Tom Probert, Ken Jackson

2. Minutes of the previous Steering group

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2023 agreed by email and circulated

3. HNA - any further update

RS had listed points to be raised with AECOM. However, MT felt all necessary points had been raised. It was agreed that we would wait until the next draft is received.

A letter had been received from James Lawson regarding the proposed development on the edge of Mount Bures. It was agreed that RH would respond and say that it is not appropriate for Bures NP to be involved with the development at this stage.

Action: RH to respond to James Lawson as above.

4. Review of the work to date

The meeting expressed appreciation of the work completed by RA and GJ since 23rd January. Discussion took place on the content to date. It was agreed that there is more work to be done before asking professionals to look at it and give their views on what needs to be done.

There was discussion on Planning Policies and Community Actions. It was agreed that both should be in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Community Actions will be fed into the Joint Parish Plan that informs the work of the Parish Councils. Community Plans being part of an adopted document that has been agreed by referendum gives the Parish Councils more power when working on the issues with the District and County Councils.

It was agreed that much of the National, County and District policy included in the draft can be removed and the policies referred to in the narrative. Having two district council Local Plans to refer to would otherwise bulk up the final document with an unbalanced amount of content that is not Bures focussed. Where the LPA policy is particularly important to the Bures NP support for the policy will be clear in the Bures NP and the reasons given. It was agreed that, in places, referring to the NPPF is valuable.

It was agreed that it is important that the content has clear links to the Vision statement. The sections of the NP were discussed. The importance of addressing climate change issues was raised and it was agreed that threading CC matters through the plan was a good way forward.

The sections were reviewed to become, Natural Environment (to include material from Landscape) Built Environment (to include material from Heritage and Housing) Community, Economy (Business and Commerce) and Getting Around (Transport)

Details such as which Green spaces should be included were considered and it was agreed that the green spaces on the map should be matched against the criteria at the next meeting.

Proposed additions to the rights of way or permissive paths need to be agreed. The Mount Bures path and the riverside and WWII trail have been suggested.

There may be particular areas where the NP needs to focus on the value of the landscape.

The task of cross-referencing and linking policies to objectives and vice versa needs to be carried out.

With regard to the photographs for use in the NP, GJ has added some from Jan Aries showing traffic problems. The need for photographs at particular points to be identified.

The Housing Group will be meeting this coming week and additional narrative will then be supplied.

There has been no news to the effect that funding for NP Planning came to an end on 31st Jan as feared. The meeting therefore agreed to invite Places4People and DAC to respond to questions in a tendering system.

An email had been received in the Bures NP inbox from a third company. One of the examples given was a cross border Suffolk Norfolk NP which may be useful to look at.

Action: KMc to add Housing narrative to the Dropbox as soon as the Housing Group has agreed the content. RA to identify where photographs and other figures are needed. RA and GJ to review the work presented for the meeting using the newly agreed sections. RH to draw up questions for the invitation to tender.

5. Use of the surveys with community groups

The surveys for Heritage and Landscape and for the Natural Environment have been taken to the Wednesday Coffee at St Mary's and to the Explorer group. The H&L has been taken to the History Society with NE due to be taken on 14th Feb. Both surveys will go to WI on 13th Feb.

Action: GJ and RA to take NE survey to History Soc. GJ to take both to WI.

Volunteers needed to take the surveys to other clubs and societies

6. Finance

Further grant application to take place when quotations for the work by external professionals are available.

Expenditure since the last meeting – hall hire and admin costs.

7. AOB

It was recognised that the meetings of the Wider Group and the Steering Committee had merged for the last two meetings. It was agreed to continue with one group as this is proving more satisfying to those involved.

8. Dates of next meetings

Fortnightly - Mon 20th Feb 7.30, Mon 6th March