

Botley Neighbourhood Plan Committee (BNPC)
Report to Botley Parish Council (BPC) meeting 09 April 2019

Meeting of the BNPC, 20 March 2019

- 6 Councillors and 2 voting non-Councillors and one newly appointed non-voting non-Councillor were present
- The Committee is pleased that we are slowly attracting non-Councillor Botley residents to join the BNPC. The BNPC unanimously elected Mike Anthony as a non-voting member of the Committee and hoped that he would consider becoming a voting member
- There was a long, amicable and wide-ranging discussion on who might be best placed to provide continuing professional support for the Botley Neighbourhood Plan. There were strengths and potential weakness in both proposal from Portchester Planning Consultancy (PPC) and Planet. There was a significant cost difference between the two providers but whilst this was not unimportant the likelihood of a satisfactory outcome for the BNP might make the more costly option ultimately better value for money. Some of these important matters could not be fully assessed from the proposals and the Committee decided that formal presentations by both providers was required
- The Housing Need Assessment by AECOM is progressing slowly but steadily and we are at the stage of agreeing the questions that we wish answered
- Concern was expressed by several members over the dismissal of western Botley, as a featureless collection of modern developments, in the Heritage & Design Topic Paper
- The next meeting of the BNPC will be on 17 April 2019

Progress since the BNPC meeting

- Unfortunately, it was felt that there were insufficient Committee members and Councillors able to attend the presentations on 06 April and that agreement on a strong recommendation would be unlikely. The meeting was cancelled
- Further discussion on a one-to-one basis was undertaken by the Committee Chairman with all the voting members who had been at the meeting on 20 March 2019 and all agreed on a new recommendation, with the key points being:
 - The strongest proposal for improving community engagement and providing a 'mini-BNP' to reflect the community's vision based on the 2016 and 2017 questionnaires and public meetings would be provided by Planet
 - Additional security around the legal robustness of the BNP prepared by Planet might require more than the one day allocated for this and the Council might wish to request one or two days of additional legal review, at £560 per day
 - The Committee Chairman will secure answers from Planet to the specific concerns raised by the Committee
 - If the Inspector decided that a Public Hearing was required, an unlikely but still possible result, this would fall outside the proposal of either provider and would be subject to a new tender process. Planet have indicated that there would be no objection of their part to this support being provided by PPC in preference to them
 - The cost differential between the two proposal (Planet £12540, PCC £28850) must be considered in relation to any clear increase in outcome value provided by PPC.

Cllr David Weeden
Chairman BNPC
05/04/2019