

## **Minutes WBNP SG Meeting No. 5; Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**Venue:** At Footsteps, Market Street at 6.45pm

**Present:** Eileen Burt, Carol Cade, Jon Goldfinch, John Pritchard, Martin Thomas, Sally Kaill, Ken O'Boyle (new member)

**In attendance:** Jo Bagnall (HPBC), Andrew Fox (WBTC Town Clerk)

**1. Apologies for absence:** Debra Wilson (who cannot attend on Mondays, but hopes to be able to attend the February meeting)

**2. Minutes of 4th Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018: AGREED** as a correct record.

**3. Matters arising from minutes: Minute 10 (Consultation Strategy with Key Stakeholders):** John reported that he had prepared a document 'Unused and Underutilised Land and Buildings', which he will pass to Carol. **Taxal Lodge** and the **Drill Hall** are empty; Eileen has a contact for the Drill Hall, and will notify Carol. The land at Bates' Yard has Outline planning permission for six houses; an application for the approval of the Reserved Matters is awaited. A decision on an application for 14 houses at the **Whiteley's** site at Bingswood Road is pending.

**4. Welcome new members and decision on vacant post of Officers:** The Chairman welcomed Ken O'Boyle, a local resident.

**5. Town Council feedback:** WBTC has **AGREED** our request for a budget of £100.

**6. Introduce Jo Bagnall to discuss the role of HPBC and general advice on how to approach NP:** The Chairman welcomed Jo Bagnall (HPBC). Jo's comments are summarised in **Appendix 1**, below.

**7. Timelines and timescales:** A document was tabled by Martin, and was noted; it appears on Dropbox. (See Minute 11, below). Members of the SG were requested to add details about their availability on to the Outlook calendar, when it becomes available on Dropbox. It was noted that there are times when Andrew has a heavy workload.

**8. FAB Market 8<sup>th</sup> December:** John's analysis of 14th December 2018 is attached as **Appendix 2**, below. Carol will read through the 'Letter to Santa' comments, and contact persons who may be interested in particular Theme Groups.

**9. Themes:** After discussion the following persons offered to:

- progress the four areas currently identified
- consider why the area is important to the community
- consider important issues and questions:

**Traffic:** Ken, assisted by Martin

**Commerce:** Jon, assisted by Carol

**Housing:** Sally

**Countryside:** John, assisted by Eileen.

**10. Name and Logo - progress report:** Sally reported that her contact is chasing the matter with his graphic designer. Carol will contact Hannah Webb, a design artist, who has offered to work on our logo.

**11. Funding and application process:** A number of areas of expenditure which could be significant (if incurred) were identified:

- printing of questionnaire
- distribution of questionnaire to all households
- printing of posters
- advertising
- subscription for IT software to analyse and collate feedback from questionnaire
- an IT consultant to design/maintain a dedicated website
- an NP consultant to advise on the NP process
- an NP consultant to write the text for the draft NP in 'NP-ese English'.

Martin noted that the timescales for individual tasks must be estimated in order that a budget for each financial year can be prepared prior to applying for Basic Grant funding (of up to £9,000).

**12. Consultation Strategy – Advice from Jo Bagnall:** See **Appendix 1**, below. Carol will contact by email those persons involved/interested in the WBNP at time work was halted about five years ago.

**13. Any other business:**

**Vision for Whaley Bridge:** ALL SG Members are requested to write a short **VISION** for WB (to be distributed to the WTTF mailbox). The Vision, when agreed, may be promoted in places such as:

- Furness Vale Community Centre
- Library
- Footsteps
- Doctors' Surgery
- Mechanics Institute
- Churches
- Tesco
- The former BT Telephone kiosk at WB Station Car Park

**14. Date of Next Meeting:** This will be at 6.45pm at Footsteps, Market Street on **Thursday, 7th February 2019**. It was **AGREED** that SG Meetings will in future commence at 6.45pm.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

## **APPENDIX 1: COMMENTS BY JO BAGNALL**

**Legal Issues:**

HPBC (High Peak Borough Council) and PDNPA (Peak District National Park) are the two Local Planning Authorities responsible for planning in different areas of the Parish of Whaley Bridge. Each has agreed to the request submitted in 2013 by Whaley Bridge Town Council that the Parish of Whaley Bridge is designated a 'Neighbourhood Area' as defined in the Localism Act 2011.

Whaley Bridge Town Council is the 'qualifying body'. It is responsible for making claims for 'Basic Grant' funding from the Government's '2018-2022 Funding and Support Programme' (see: <https://mycommunity.org.uk/2018/03/15/new-neighbourhood-planning-programme-changes-to-my-community-everything-you-need-to-know/>). .

HPBC is responsible for appointing an Independent Examiner to review the draft NP submitted to it by WBTC. HPBC is responsible for meeting the costs of the Independent Examination and the Referendum.

A local NP 'adds detail' to the High Peak Local Plan (adopted April 2016).

Within a designated Neighbourhood Area, a Neighbourhood Plan (aka Neighbourhood Development Plan) and, separately, a Neighbourhood Development Order may be prepared and introduced.

NP timescales are open-ended and may be developed at whatever pace those involved choose.

The 'Community Right to Bid' (see: <https://mycommunity.org.uk/resources/understanding-the-community-right-to-bid/>) allows communities and parish councils to nominate buildings or land for listing by the local authority as an 'Asset of Community Value'. If the assets comes up for sale, the community can 'pause' the sale and take up to six months to find the funding required to buy the asset.

A 'Community Right to Build Order' (see: <https://mycommunity.org.uk/resources/understanding-the-community-right-to-build/>) is a type of Neighbourhood Development Order. It is one of the neighbourhood planning tools introduced in the Localism Act 2011. It can be used to grant outline or full planning permission for specific development which complies with the order. For example: homes, shops, businesses, affordable housing for rent or sale, community facilities or playgrounds. If approved in a local referendum, the Community Right to Build Order is 'made' and planning permission will have been granted. So it is the community that gives permission for the building to go ahead – not the local authority as happens with a traditional planning application.

### **Public Engagement Issues:**

There should be evidence that the public is kept informed throughout the process; this is assisted by monthly progress reports to the Town Council and by quarterly reports in the Town Council Newsletter.

A fact-finding questionnaire should be prepared and delivered to every household in the parish. On-line responses will reduce the labour in the analysis of the responses, but paper responses must be accepted too.

A decision should be made before distributing questionnaires about how the responses will be analysed and tabulated.

Experience shows that public meetings not always helpful and can sometimes be counterproductive, and care should be taken about the purpose of public meetings and who (maybe the external NP consultant) will 'lead' or 'facilitate' a public meeting.

Undertake 'community walkabouts'.

Identify any social media websites visited frequently by our local community.

**Other Points:**

Study the Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan 'Vision'. John will circulate a document which he has received from Jo; it is not available on the Web.

Concentrate on achieving an understanding within the community about:

- what a NP can do for WB
- why we (ie the Steering Group) believe in making an NP for the benefit of the local community.

Access issues and Flood Risk issues are becoming increasingly important in making policies relating to the use of land.

**APPENDIX 2: RESPONSES FROM FAB MARKET, 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018**

*(Prepared by John Pritchard, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018)*

**FAB Market at Whaley Bridge Canal Basin on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

**Analysis of Results of replies on the 'Whaley Bridge to the Future email sign up' sheets**

**Number of Replies: 37**

A: 'Just information'

B: 'Join Steering Group'

C: 'Agree to be contacted'.

**Number of persons who ticked:**

A only: 6

B only: none

C only: 5

A and B only: none

B and C only: 6

A and C only: 15

A and B and C: 3

Neither A, B or C: 2

TOTAL RESPONSES: 37.

**Number of persons who ticked:**

A: 24

B: 9

C: 29

Nothing: 2

(Note: These numbers add up to more than 37 because several persons gave multiple ticks)

**Recommendations:**

1 Emails should be sent ASAP to those 9 persons who ticked B:

- asking them to complete the sign-up form (which all of us have completed).

2 Emails should also be sent to the other 28 persons:

- thanking them for their interest in the WBNP SG stall at the FAB market
- informing them that they may keep in touch us through visiting our page <http://www.whaleybridge.com/neighbourhood-plan/> on the [www.whaleybridge.com](http://www.whaleybridge.com) website
- advising them that we may email them from time to time.

**Analysis of Results of comments on the ‘Vision 4 Whaley Bridge Letter to Santa’****Number of Replies: 27**

1. Promote Ecology
2. Promote Tourism
3. Promote usage of Canal Basin
4. Promote Memorial Park
5. Promote Toddbrook Reservoir
6. Promote Bingswood Pond
7. Address need for affordable homes
8. Address need for studio space available to rent
9. Address the issues of run-down areas and empty buildings
10. Promote sustainability
11. Promote SMEs
12. Promote access to, and enjoyment of, our green spaces and outdoor environment
13. Promote activities for teenagers
14. Address littering and promote litter picks
15. Address need for 3-way traffic lights (at certain times?) at bottom of Whaley Lane
16. Talk to Network Rail (others?) about a rail connection between Whaley and Sheffield via Buxton; (*nb this is a matter for HPHVCRP to address – JP*)
17. Promote a Whaley Art Hub
18. Promote local shops (including late-night shopping)
19. Promote Whaley’s heritage
20. Develop a vision for Whaley
21. Promote more affordable local bus and train journeys to reduce car usage

22. Promote off-road cycling
23. Promote a circular Round the Reservoir walk
24. Promote a public car park at Wharf Road
25. Promote parking restrictions on A6; (nb these are called Traffic Orders by DCC – JP)
26. Protect our green spaces from large developments
27. Promote free bus travel to/from Chapel High School for ALL children living in Whaley Bridge because half get free travel and half pay in full depending on which side of the boundary line near Horwich End they live
28. Promote enhancement of the town centre
29. Promote use of the Transshipment Warehouse as an interactive visitor centre
30. Promote a bus on the Whaley/Chapel bypass because I have a 5-hour daily commute to Wythenshawe
31. Promote a dog-friendly indoor café
32. Promote sustainable, affordable and community-led transport
33. Build the bridge – just do it!
34. Promote restrictions on HGVs using Macclesfield Road (especially should the Barratt Homes development go ahead)
35. Promote off-road parking along Macclesfield Road
36. Promote an adventure hub for canoeing, canal tow path and other walks, climbing etc.
37. Promote community use of the Transshipment Warehouse; eg canoe group, winter
38. boat renovation, music events, W3 again
39. Promote a residents' parking scheme
40. **STOP** cars parking on the non-cobble strip (which was provided for ease of use by wheelchairs, prams and people who don't want to walk on cobbles); *(nb the strip was provided over 30 years ago precisely for this purpose, but has never been able to be enforced! – JP)*
41. Hunting for on-street parking space is ridiculous – do something!
42. Promote restrictions on pavement parking
43. Promote better house design
44. Promote eco-homes
45. Promote a Whaley Art Hub for our creative residents with a permanent place for Exhibitions, talks, meetings etc
46. Promote the improvement of the appearance of shop frontages in the town centre