

## ESBG PC NP Steering Group Meeting

Meeting 8/04/26 at the BGVH

Present: Cllrs Stamp, Sadler, Monteith, Hardy-Giles, Shadegg, Debenham, Clerk Jones & John Dain.

Apologies: Nicholas Steedman, Odette Hendersen, Katie Roselaar, Louise Eadie.

1. Review of matters arising (numbered 1-13) from meeting on 11/3/26
  - (1) ToR shared with Jessica Wells
  - (2) Cllr Stamp has contacted Burghclere PC and their NP lead. Contact passed on to PD to follow up.
  - (3) ToR shared with chosen consultants
  - (4) ET Planning consultants chosen after interviews with 3 possible consultancies (ET Planning, Plan-ET, Bluestone Planning). Appointment confirmed at extra-ordinary PC meeting on 27/03/26.
  - (5) Consultancy fee base requested and provided, and approved at PC meeting on 27/3.
  - (6) Nicholas's scope of works document shared with consultants, as well as other prepared documents (e.g. from JD).
  - (7) Jessica Wells contacted 12/3 but awaiting guidance to be released by BDBC on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - (8) Costs for original NP provided by Cllr Stamp at £34k, or which £4.5k VAT was reclaimed.
  - (9) JD chasing Mrs Bonser for detail of new owners of the site proposed for 5 houses at Ecchinswell.
  - (10) No action required re note about Call for Sites, but not all lands around the ESB had expressed interest at the time.
  - (11) Follow up see Point 3 below.
  - (12) No action required
  - (13) Approach consultants for strategy and dates concerning Scoping Meeting, request sent, and see post-meeting update (Point 4 below).
  
2. Strategy, payment for Scoping Meeting
  - a. Payment billing for Scoping Meeting (£1500 plus VAT) agreed at PC meeting on 27/3 forwarded from Robyn Milliner to Sarah as Clerk to register and pay.
  - b. Scoping meeting strategy proposed by Robyn Milliner in email (2/04/26). Sequence to be that Robyn would draft a scoping report first for the Steering Group/PC to consider. This scoping report will be based on current national and local policy positions, assessment of the current NP policies performances, and recommendations for potential new policies and supporting evidence requirements.
  - c. Once considered by Steering Group/PC then we will arrange a meeting to discuss findings and recommendations and refine scope.
  - d. Consultant to finalise Scoping Report and provide clear programme of works, timeframes and follow up meeting(s).
  - e. Above outline was discussed and agreed as the way forward to feed back to the consultant. PD to feed back to consultant.
  - f. The consultant indicated for us to continue to provide any relevant documents.

3. Recruiting new members for the NP Steering Group
  - a. Pleased to note 3 persons have expressed interest to be involved from Ecchinswell (via village WhatsApp group with 168 residents).
  - b. Pleased to note 2 persons have expressed interest to be involved from Bishops Green (via BG Facebook group with 389 residents).
4. Any other updates
  - a. We need someone to take the lead on the Call for Sites stage. Action pending further detail on what will be required.
  - b. Census data could be useful to frame consideration of housing needs (e.g. rental/low cost housing). PD to look into data.
  - c. Could the issue about resisting the use of agricultural land for solar farms be tied into a new policy concerning valued landscapes and preservation of rural landscapes (aligned to the new BDBC policy in this area?).
  - d. How will the new designation of the North Wessex Downs National Landscapes come into play in the NP? Need to ask Robyn Milliner about this.
  - e. Important to point out to Robyn Milliner the real problem of potential (or actual) sewage failure for our parish with 30 tankers a night removing toxic chemistry from the sewage works at BG.
  - f. Need to raise with Robyn Milliner the LPU delay over lack of water infrastructure. Also raise with Jessica Wells.
  - g. Need to look into BDBC grants available for funding NP work. PD to action.
  - h. (post meeting update). Following up pt 1-13, and pt 2c above, Robyn Milliner has provided a range of dates in May for the scoping meeting. These dates/times have been circulated to the Steering Group.