

Minutes of Border Group Parishes Neighbourhood Plan Meeting

Tuesday 10th September at 7.30 pm

Lingen Village Hall

Those Present

Parish Councillors

Maggie Brown, John Miles (Chairman), Phillip Morris, Richard Ruell

Others present

Samantha Banks (Neighbourhood Planning team Leader, Herefordshire Council), Edward Adams, Jackie Morris, Maureen Robinson (Parish Clerk), David Stevens, Tony Swainson, Harley Thomas, John Walker,

Apologies

Stephen Chilman, Clive Gurney, Mike Oliver, Simon Whiteman, John Voysey

In Memoriam

John Miles called for a minute's silence to remember Martin Pettit who sadly died whilst on holiday.

Minutes

Welcome

John Miles welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Samantha Banks who is the Neighbourhood Planning Team Leader for Herefordshire council.

Chairman's Report on Progress So Far.

The Application for the designation of the Border Group area was approved on 18th July 2013 by Andrew Ashcroft (Assistant Director of Economy, Environment & Cultural Services). There had been three objections.

The Herefordshire Core Strategy was adopted by the full Herefordshire Council on 19th July 2013. I understand that for rural areas there have been no alterations from the Draft Core Strategy and that the market towns had some concerns.

We have signed the "Service Level Agreement for Parishes" which outlines the level of support a parish can expect from their Planning Support Officer who is Samantha Banks.

At the Parish Plan Meeting a decision was taken not to produce a new Parish Plan but to update the present one.

Establishment of a Steering Group

Six Border Group Parish Councillors and eight other residents have so far expressed an interest in serving. Their names are given below.

Parish Councillors: Maggie Brown, Stephen Chilman, Clive Gurney, John Miles, Richard Ruell, Simon Whiteman. Other Residents: Sally Barnett, Adrian Boylan, Brian Lewis, Natalie Morton, Mr. Protheroe, Mike Oliver, Maureen Robinson, Harley Thomas, Tony Swainson, John Walker.

Election of Officers

Stephen Chilman, Chairman. Tony Swainson, Secretary. Andrew Gray, Treasurer. Maureen Robinson, Publicity Officer. All were proposed and seconded by attendees. John Miles stood in as Chairman for Stephen Chilman who was unable to attend this meeting.

Project Overview by Samantha Banks with General Discussion.

The Project Plan Template has been started and most of the first page completed. The time to completion should be about 18 months. A form to apply for a grant is available on line. 201 Grants have already been given in the current April 2013-14 period.

A communication plan is important to get people "on board" as the referendum stage is key to success and will fail if the vote is less than 50%. Every parish must be happy with the approach. In our case there have been three objections to the plan which is exceptional. The complaints were generally on the grounds that a single plan could not cover six diverse parishes and that three plans would be required.

The area already designated could be revoked and the neighbourhood could be increased, but this could make the plan unwieldy. Consultation with neighbouring parishes would of course be required.

The Plan can cover renewable energy schemes, although any proposals must be evidence based.

As we are signed up for one plan the objections need to be resolved before proceeding. One plan with three separate chapters might be a way forward. A meeting with all Steering Group members is needed to discuss this issue. We were reminded that the Neighbourhood plan does not have to be proceeded with at this stage.

The Parishioners need to be told exactly what the plan is all about, what is achievable and how it relates to the Core Strategy.

What Next?

An issue of Border News needs to be published on the Neighbourhood Plan and it also needs to be on the Border Group website. Electronic communication can save time and keep costs down.

Another Steering Group meeting is desirable as soon as possible and Tuesday 1st October in Lingen at 7.30 was agreed.

Samantha Banks said that a copy of an existing Neighbourhood Plan was on the internet and well worth looking at. The neighbourhood is Upper Eden, Cumbria and the plan can be found by "Google". It covered a rural area which has some similarity to ours. Much Wenlock is another good example although a very different sort of area.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and especially Samantha Banks for her help.

The meeting closed at 9.15.

Next Meeting Tuesday 1st October in Lingen at 7.30