

DRAFT - Bridgnorth Plan Steering Group Minutes of Meeting – 22nd June 2021

Held as a Zoom videoconference commencing at 7 pm.

Present: Paul Bolton – Sustainable Bridgnorth
Keith Bowley – Bridgnorth Youth Centre
Julia Buckley – Shropshire Councillor and BTC
Liz Bird – Bridgnorth Food Bank
Henry Carver
David Cooper – Bridgnorth Town Council (BTC)
Clive Dyson – Steering Group Chairman
George Edwards – Tasley Parish Council
Mike Golding
Darren Hodson
Kirstie Hurst-Knight – Shropshire Councillor
Christian Lea – Shropshire Councillor
Richard Marshall – Shropshire Councillor
Karen Sawbridge - Bridgnorth Town Council
Gary Timmins – Worfield Parish Council
Les Winwood – Shropshire Councillor

Apologies: Sarah Barlow – Mayor, Bridgnorth Town Council
Stephen Robbins – Bridgnorth Chamber of Commerce
Connor Furnival - Clerk to Worfield & Rudge Parish Council
Michele Ross

1. Minutes of and actions from the previous meetings

The minutes of the steering group meetings held on Tuesday 30th March were approved. The status of outstanding actions is:

Action 20/6-3: Clive Dyson to arrange for representation on “Future Bridgnorth”. **Ongoing**

Action 21/3-1: Mike Golding to draft a request to Bridgnorth Town Council (and affected parish councils) for them to consider their position on [the proposal to reopen the Ironbridge to Bridgnorth railway line]. **Ongoing**

2. Election of Chairman

Bridgnorth Town Council had nominated David Cooper to be Chairman of the Steering Group. Clive Dyson proposed and Gary Timmins seconded that David be elected as Chairman and David was elected unanimously.

3. Terms of Reference

We reviewed the original terms of reference for the Steering Group, including the original milestones, which have been achieved. Clive also presented draft revised objectives, set at the AGM in October 2020, which have not yet been approved by supporting bodies.

4. Approach and progress to date

The Steering Group has aimed to provide a framework for consultation and collaboration.

Clive reviewed progress made by the Steering Group since June 2019. It has worked through a number of working groups (see the appended diagram) and consultation, including public meetings and a survey.

Its initial objectives have been achieved and a first edition of the Bridgnorth Plan was published in November 2020. The Plan provides a good initial framework that we believe to be a reasonable representation of local views. It has provided one basis for submissions on the Local Plan made by parish councils and others. Our work has also helped to develop a degree of collaboration between local parish councils.

However, the recommendations made have had little if any impact on the draft of Shropshire Council's Local Plan.

Work has slowed down this year, so that a decision on how to proceed could be made after the local elections. The main topic of this meeting was to discuss this.

Clive thanked all those who have contributed towards the Bridgnorth Plan, the members of the Steering Group, and local Parish Councils and supporting bodies for their support.

Darren Hodson proposed a vote of thanks to Clive for his work as Chairman.

5. Local Transport Plan consultation

Shropshire Council has been carrying out a consultation exercise on a number of topics, with the aim of developing a Local Transport Plan. Progress was discussed and the objectives clarified.

6. Status of the Local Plan Review

A full meeting of Shropshire Council will vote on whether to approve the latest draft of the Local Plan on 15th July. It is not anticipated there will be any changes to the draft considered under the Regulation 19 consultation.

7. How to proceed

After a wide-ranging discussion it was agreed that the original objectives of the Steering Group had been achieved but that work needs to continue on the major themes identified and to respond to the emerging Local Plan.

The need for any plan to be environmentally sustainable was discussed and noted.

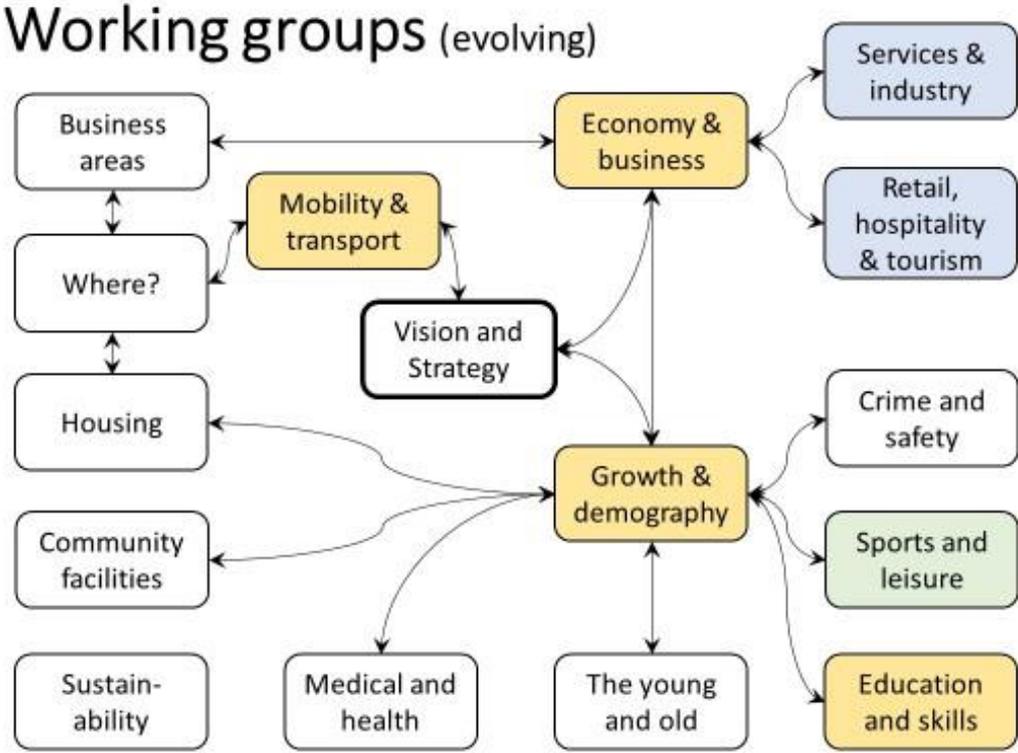
The option of progressing the Bridgnorth Plan to become a Neighbourhood Plan was discussed and there was support for this. This would give a plan legal status, but it would have to be consistent with the Local Plan. One possibility is to iterate between consultation (leading to an initial plan of some form, covering local views and issues) and developing, subsequent to each revision of the Local Plan, a formal Neighbourhood Plan. No decisions on this were made and it will be considered by the Steering Group in future.

It was agreed that:

1. A working group be established to develop revised terms of reference for the Steering Group and a proposal for consideration by the Town Council, local parish councils and other supporting bodies. The working group will be: David Cooper, Darren Hodson, Mike Golding, Karen Sawbridge, Gary Timmins, George Edwards, Henry Carver and Julia Buckley. Local Shropshire Councillors will be consulted for guidance and to obtain the support of Shropshire Council officers. David will call the first meeting of the working group.
2. Membership of the Steering Group will be reviewed subsequently. Local Shropshire Councillors will attend meetings of the Steering Group on a rota basis. They will look to provide guidance and a link to Shropshire Council officers.
3. In the meantime, local Shropshire Councillors and town and parish councillors will look to progress 'Future Bridgnorth', in the form previously discussed and provisionally agreed with Mark Barrow. Kirstie Hurst-Knight offered to progress this within Shropshire Council.

8. Next meeting.

The next Steering Group meeting will be called after the working group proposals have been considered and agreed with councils and supporting bodies.



Original breakdown of issues.