**WORKING GROUP MINUTES**

Minutes of a meeting of the Bledlow-cum-Saunderton Neighbourhood Plan Working Group held on 13th December 2016 at the Lions, Bledlow at 8pm.

Present: Simon Breese (Chairman)

Luca Guerzoni

Derek Stone

Paul Castle

Andrew Sage

1. **Quorum**

The Chairman noted that a quorum was present and declared the meeting open.

1. **Examiner’s Report - review**

The WG considered the recommendations made by the examiner in his report and noted that the feedback was generally positive and that the changes he was proposing were relatively few.

The most significant changes relate to policy 3. Policy 3(1) has been amended to make it clear that the existing development includes the buildings, the concrete slab and the other areas of hard standing. This is to be identified in a plan of the site. As amended, the policy largely repeats the provisions of the NPPF.

Policy 3(2) has been removed on the basis that the WG has not been able to demonstrate that the policy would limit development to something “no greater than the existing development”. The examiner felt that this meant the policy would not meet the basic conditions. This was a surprise to the WG for two reasons: (a) the NP was never intended to limit development to something no greater than the existing development and this fact was fairly clear in the Plan, so it was not clear why the examiner thought that the NP was trying to do this, and (b) the WG had been advised previously that it could put forward a policy supporting development greater than the existing development.

Derek said that he had agreed to talk with Paul Stinchcombe (the counsel we spoke with previously) to find out if the examiner is correct in his assessment. This would then allow the WG to determine the potential next steps.

1. **Issues for WDC**

WDC has 5 weeks to respond to the draft plan. This period ends on 14th January. Luca will contact Aude to arrange for a meeting with WDC before Christmas to cover the following topics:

1. The recommended version of policy 3.
2. The current status of the application to build a data centre (is it still valid and if so until when).
3. The publication of the examiner’s report.
4. A number of operational details concerning the update of the NP.
5. **Project Plan**

Following our meeting with WDC, the next steps are set out in the project plan as follows:

1. WDC announces decision on next steps by 14th January.
2. NP is updated.
3. File is handed over to the Democratic Services Team to organise the referendum.
4. Referendum will be held within 60 days.
5. Assuming a positive result the Plan will be approved by the WDC cabinet at the next available meeting, probably in May.
6. **Communication Plan – examination phase**

Depending on the outcome of the meeting with WDC, WG will need to communicate the results of the examination and next steps:

1. Update the web-site to include the examiner’s report and a summary of the conclusions of the examiner.
2. Send an update/summary to the usual mailing lists.
3. Put an article in the Messenger/Contact
4. **Communication Plan – referendum phase**

Once we have a date for the referendum the WG will need to arrange a letter from Simon informing residents of the date of and process for voting at the referendum. That letter would be sent 2-4 weeks before the referendum and would be “neutral”. In other words it would encourage people to vote but without including a recommendation.

In addition to the letter, the WG would arrange to send out an email, include an announcement on the web-site and put up posters. Depending on the timing, a notice would also be included in the Messenger/Contact.

1. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be called when needed.

1. **Any other business**

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9pm.

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Chairman