

Blandford + Monitoring Group Meeting

Tuesday 18th October 2022 at 10am

In Attendance

Cllr Roger Carter (Chair)	Cllr Carol Tompsett
Cllr Malcolm Albery	Cllr Alan Cross
Cllr Ian Mackay	Linda Scott-Giles
Leani Haim (O'Neill Homer- OH)	Matt Jennings (O'Neill Homer)

Apologies

Cllr Kaylee Herbert	Cllr Frank Stocks
---------------------	-------------------

1. AECOM Design Guidance and Codes

AECOM has confirmed that they are finalising the report and are planning to send the first draft report to Locality this week. It requires Locality about 2 weeks to review the report, but in this case, AECOM will ask them to prioritise the Blandford DDC report, so hopefully, they can come back to us with their comments soon. AECOM aims to send the Monitoring Group the report by 28th October as requested.

Leani confirmed that it is possible to extend the Regulation 14 period of consultation to eight weeks instead of six weeks. **The respective parishes need to seek delegated authority to make minor changes.**

Post Meeting Note: AECOM contacted OH to clarify the timetable following the meeting. It was confirmed that a draft report would be issued by 28th October for the Council's to consider at their respective meetings on 2nd, 7th and 9th November. **The B+ Monitoring Group would also be seeking delegated authority to agree the final version of the Code in readiness for 28th November Regulation 14 publication.**

2. Updated Memorandum of Understanding

It was noted that the MoU has been approved by the three councils but awaiting Dorset Council to update their website with 2021 Census figures. **Carol, Malcolm and Roger will sign a copy, and this will be shared with all by email so a copy can be filed.**

Linda advised that invoices have not been sent to Bryanston Parish Council or Blandford St Mary Parish Council for staffing costs for many years, which is stated in the MoU.

Malcolm asked what the current balance is and **Linda will confirm after the meeting.**

Post Meeting Note: £12,200 of the entitled £18,000 grant funding has been spent. **A grant application for the remaining funds will now be made by Town Council staff.** OH clarified that the grant will not compensate loss of staff time spent on a Neighbourhood Plan project.

3. **Receive and review Modification Proposal and Statement**

Leani advised that there are two matters that require the monitoring group's attention. One is a foreword, which requires updating and **Roger agreed to take that on and asked that Carol and Malcolm check it over.**

OH will provide a summary on community consultation for Section 4 of the Modification Proposal.

Regarding the housing requirement figure, Dorset Council is keen to use the method that they set out in the options Dorset Local Plan, which included calculation of how the figures had been made up (the number of completions since April 2021, the number of homes from extant planning permissions, housing allocations – 400 (Made Plan allocation), capacity on major sites in development boundary and windfall allowance on minor sites). Leani advised that Ed Gerry is going to confirm the housing figure to 2033 by 1st November 2022. It had originally been suggested that this could be provided by way of the monitoring group carrying out a housing needs assessment as per the Pimperne Neighbourhood Plan Review which had recently passed its examination. The Plan is looking to 2033 and we are trying to secure para 14 protection. The Dorset Local Plan was looking to 2038 but is now looking to 2041.

Leani asked for a list of candidate non-designated heritage assets (local heritage assets) for inclusion in the modification proposal.

All parishes to send a list of properties for inclusion to Leani, including the ones originally sent to Dorset Council.

The lists also require approval by the respective councils as part of the content of the Modification Proposal.

Carol raised the letter to landowners and suggested some changes in order to reassure them. Malcolm asked if it is essential to send the letters and Leani recommended doing so, to assist with local relations. **Carol to circulate the amended letter as soon as possible. Ideally, the letters should be distributed this week by the respective parishes.**

Malcolm asked if we are required to produce a heritage list and Leani confirmed that it provides planning officers, and people submitting planning applications, with clarity.

4. **Formal consultation content and preparations**

a. **Consultation responses received to date**

Attendees discussed the consultation responses and the content of the comments made. The response had been limited, however those who were engaging were broadly supportive of the aims of the project. Other non-planning matters were raised and the respective councils would take these forward in their day-to-day business operations.

It was agreed that **Roger writes to Ed Denham and Cllr Spencer Flower at Dorset Council** to find out what progress is being made with the introduction of a school as part of the development at the land north of the bypass site.

b. Receive and review updated draft Consultation Statement

Linda to send Leani the updated s/s of consultation responses, who will prepare a summary update for 2.6-2.7 of the Consultation Statement and Section 4 of the Modification Proposal.

Roger asked that 'Steering Group' is changed to 'Monitoring Group' throughout the document (actioned).

Leani advised she will seek the list of consultees for the Regulation 14 consultation from Dorset Council. Leani suggested using the previous Regulation 14 leaflet and invitations to comment and updating it.

5. **Receive SEA/HRA screening outcome**

a. **Responses received by Dorset Council to the consultation on the SEA/HRA screening for the proposed modified Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan**

The consensus appears to be that we do not require SEA/HRA screening and Dorset Council has agreed to issue an informal opinion on this matter by 14th November. As it will be necessary to demonstrate that the modifications will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development at the submission stage, OH will continue to prepare a Draft SA/SEA Addendum to accompany the Modification Proposal and Statement during the Regulation 14 consultation.

6. **Agree Reg 14 recommendation to Town and Parish Councils**

It was agreed that Monday 28th November 2022 will be the launch date of the Regulation 14 consultation and the closing date will be Monday 30th January 2023.

Post Meeting Note: Matt will send over the latest working drafts of the suite of documents that should accompany the Town and Parish Council agendas by Friday 28th October. The Monitoring Group will seek delegated authority to approve final versions of the suite of documents. It may be necessary to secure approval by email for the list of Local Heritage Assets as this will not be included by this date. A verbal update will need to be provided at the meeting on housing requirement figures once Leani has confirmed these with Ed Gerry by the 1st November.

Suite of draft documents:

1. **Modification Proposal** – setting out the proposed modifications
2. **Modification Statement** – a technical document establishing why the modifications do not change the nature of the plan and therefore does not need to be subject to a referendum
3. **Draft SA/SEA Addendum** – a technical document which assesses the modifications against the previously agreed framework to establish whether the modifications contribute to the achievement of sustainable development
4. **Design Code** – design guidance and codes that is given full effect by policies in the Modification Proposal
5. **Local Heritage Assets** – an assessment against Historic England's criteria of the list of buildings or structures being identified as local heritage assets in the Modification Proposal
6. **Blandford + Health Background Note** – an updated note setting out the current position on planning for new and improved GP facilities in Blandford
7. **Community Facilities Update Report** – an updated report including Blandford St Mary Village Hall and renaming Bryanston Club to the Old Powerhouse

7. Planning system working with the current B+NP and future links

Roger is attending a Dorset Council planning session with Cllr David Walsh this afternoon and will seek clarification on how the NP will work with the emerging Local Plan, and Ian suggested asking about the possibility of algorithms being incorporated into an electronic application for post code recognition.

8. Dark Skies – inclusion as part of the modification review

As agreed at the last meeting, Leani has amended the modification proposal statement regarding dark skies to include the following in three places:

Applicants are also directed to the CCWWD AONB good practice notes for Dark-Sky compliant lighting on new buildings and refurbishments.

Malcolm asked if any of these changes will lead to a referendum and Leani advised that, although it is considered that the amendments will not result in another referendum, and Dorset Council agrees, this is ultimately for the examiner to decide.

9. Project Plan Review

As a result of the discussion and agreed actions, Leani advised that a meeting is not required until February and a meeting has therefore been arranged for 10am on Thursday 9th February 2023.

Linda to book the Community Room and set up a Teams meeting (actioned).