

Present: David Cornish (chair) Graham Jukes Roland Cundy
Andrew Pearce Roger Marshallsay Pauline Grainger

APOLOGIES

Allan Gibson

ACTIONS

DC/AG report feedback on phone call with JM (WBC) to PMG meeting of 31-8-21, Actioned, CLOSED

AGENDA

- Report on Parish Council Meeting about the allocation of sites.
- Locality Grant

Report

DC reported there had been a great deal of discussion at the full Parish Council meeting last night on whether or not the FNDP should continue to support the 4 suggested sites in the Reading Road area or to support WBC's preference of Greenacres. They acknowledged that the FNDP team was now proposing to support Greenacres.

At the end of the discussion the majority of the council supported to pursue Greenacres but there were unanswered questions:

- The risk to jobs and industrial units at the Greenacres site
- The risk of creating a precedent for development the other side of Nine Mile Ride

In respect of the first question

- RC felt that with careful and modern planning the site could have both homes and industrial units
- DC thought the industrial units could/would move to another brownfield site

DC advised that he and AG were meeting with JM (WBC) again next week and wanted the feel of the group as to how to proceed.

The overall feeling was that they should proceed with caution and not give away too much of our detail. There was a concern that if we offer up too much at this stage this will be taken as ticking a box and then later on in the process we could have a greater number placed upon us. RM stressed we should still be going in with a low number.

It was thought we could agree sites with them if in return we had assurances that other sites will not be imposed upon us. However whilst JM could possibly offer this there was concern someone higher up the ranking would ignore this. It was understood that a big site, Hall Farm, is being considered for the WBC LPU housing allocation and possibly our number could be reduced, so if we offered up too early this wouldn't happen.

DC pointed out time was of the essence as we needed to stay ahead of the WBC LPU and others mentioned if we tried to synchronise our plan with theirs we would then be driven by their time frame not ours. We need to do the Reg 14 Consultation phase 2 ahead of WBC LPU.

In response to a question from PG about the Barkham Ride site and the mobile homes on it GJ reiterated that we, as a group, are only identifying sites which we believe to be acceptable for development and it is between the landowner and WBC what development takes place.

It was noted we are not the main negotiator with WBC, the Borough Councillors are, and the top decision makers are unlikely to take into account small local discussions.

GJ summarised the group feeling:

- Inform that Parish Council will support FNDP with the proposal of Greenacres as opposed to the 4 sites on the reading Rd
- try and get from WBC confirmation that if we offer up sites they confirm no more will be imposed on us
- as the negotiators with WBC it was down to DC/AG to proceed as they thought best, according to how discussions developed, but to proceed with caution

Locality Grant

DC has submitted the application for the remainder of the standard grant and the additional grant for allocated housing. He was not overconfident the application was adequate and it was possibly short on detail.

He received a call from Locality and has amended where requested and re-submitted.

RM informed he received many call when submitting application previously and most were to identify why the costs were necessary – justification seemed to satisfy them. He mentioned that the report at the end of the year would be challenging and will require detail about allocated housing.

DC was confident the site for 2 homes in the village and the other site for another two houses would not be included in the WBC LPU so these are positively additional housing. However he pointed out Locality seemed more interested in affordable homes rather than additional houses.

AOB

RM advised that communication/publicity is going to be critical for the referendum he cited the recent Bracknell Town referendum where turnout was just 9.6% amid much discontent over lack of communication. However AP pointed out many people do not read what they’re sent and DC suggested we could no more than our level best but agreed it was important to think about this.

AP asked about the rumoured 100 social houses on Barkham Ride and was advised this is beyond the remit of the FNDP but that the parish Council should watch the situation as it is a neighbouring parish. RM felt it would be discussed by the planning committee.

Meeting closed 10.20am

Date of next meeting: 5th October 9.30am, **FBC library**

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Date:.....

Actions

1. DC/AG meet speak with JM re decision of Parish Council
2. SG/PMG consider communication/publicity for referendum in due course