

Boston Spa Neighbourhood Planning Advisory Group (NPAG) Meeting

Monday 29 January 2024 at 6.30pm

Lantern Room, Boston Spa Village Hall, 199 High Street, Boston Spa, LS23 6AA

Present: Cllr Gail Bowen (Chairman); Cllr Keith Blake, David Faraday, Keith Jackson; Andy Colledge, Cllr Penny Stables.

Apologies: Tomas Johnson (LCC),

In attendance: Deborah Marshall (Clerk to the Parish Council).

MINUTES

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| 1. | Apologies for absence |
| | Apologies had been received from Tomas Johnson. |
| | Resolved: That the apologies and reasons for absence be accepted. |
| 2. | To confirm the minutes from the 4th December 2023 meeting and note any actions delivered |
| | Resolved: That the minutes be accepted as a true record. Members of the committee provided individual updates on the progress of their discussions with the key community groups. Cllr Blake suggested that neighbouring Parish Councils should also be contacted and agreed to make contact with Clifford and Thorp Arch. |
| 3. | To receive responses from the Deepdale Public Consultation on 27th January |
| | <p>The Deepdale event had been well attended with an estimated 30 visitors over the two hours. Cllr Bowen circulated a list of responses received from the attendees, broken down by topic. Improved public transport and access to safe cycling route were high priorities. There is a strong demand for a bus service to York and it was asked whether the existing 492 service could be scheduled at time when it can connect with the Coastliner service in Tadcaster. Residents would like to see cycling routes expanded between the surrounding villages. It was suggested that a cycle path could be laid at the side of Grove Farm to connect with the cycle path at the Wattlesyke roundabout to Wetherby. This could be achieved through the Government's ELMS (Environmental Land Management Schemes). Parking, speeding, traffic volumes and the risk of overdevelopment and lack of key facilities were also high areas of concern. Older residents are concerned about BT switching off analogue landlines, which means digital telephones are now dependent on a power supply which will fail during a power outage. The mobile signal in the village is not good from many of the networks and mobiles are also dependent on being charged.</p> <p>Youth facilities were raised, but it has now been found there are a number of youth clubs operating in the village. These need to be promoted more as few people seem to be aware of them.</p> <p>Questions were raised about shop frontages and the need to preserve the heritage of the village and its appearance. A shop front guide was produced and sent to shops in 2019. It was agreed that the guide should be incorporated into any revised Neighbourhood Plan.</p> |

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| | <p>The Clerk noted that there had been a number of requests on social media to submit comments on the consultation via email. It was proposed that a digital survey be produced to reach those who are housebound or unable to attend the consultations. D Faraday said he would put together a shortlist of 10 questions. The Clerk said she would create a Google Form survey. Cllr Stables said she would promote this on Social Media.</p> <p>It was proposed that NPAG hold several ‘pop-up’ consultations at public events in the village over the next six months to reach a wider demographic. Cllr Bowen said she had booked a stall at the Party in the Park in July.</p> <p>It was agreed that a report of responses received so far would be made available to the public. D Faraday said he would produce a chart-based report to be circulated for comments and approval at the next NPAG meeting. Cllr Bowen said she would write a written commentary to support the charts.</p> <p>It was agreed that next steps following the receipt of all feedback would be to compare the original Neighbourhood Plan with all the feedback received from residents to see how people’s opinions and priorities had changed over the last 8 years. Certainly, some of the wording of some of policies in the NP needs to be updated.</p> |
| 4. | To consider any correspondence received |
| | <p>Cllr Stables said she had held a meeting with c 25 members of the Boston Spa and Wetherby Disability & Campaign Group at Box Tree Court on 29th January. Progress has been made on shop access and some retailers now have temporary mobility ramps. However, the majority of shops along the High Street still remain inaccessible because of steps. It was proposed that a Shops Accessibility Guide could be produced alongside the NP. Disabled parking spaces outside the Post Office and SALT are in plan with LCC Highways. Parking on pavements and the leaving of bins on pavements continue to be big issues. Cllr Stables reported that it had been suggested to LCC that parking on pavements be made illegal in Leeds following London and Edinburgh, but feedback had been that many of the streets in Leeds were too narrow and had no off-street parking, which would leave inadequate space for cars to be parked on both sides of the road. It was noted that there is no ‘Changing Places’ facility in Boston Spa or safe access to the riverside for those in wheelchairs.</p> <p>Policies for new build properties to be fully accessible were considered and it was questioned whether Boston Spa could request a higher percentage as part of the revised NP.</p> |
| | Resolved: That the above correspondence be noted. |
| 5. | To consider any urgent items or items for the next meeting |
| | It was proposed that NPAG members review the existing policies to see if they still meet the needs of residents following feedback received at the consultations. |
| | Resolved: That the above action be agreed. |
| 6. | To confirm the date(s) of the next meeting |
| | Resolved That the next meeting be held on Thursday 29 th February 2024 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall Committee Room. |

With no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:29.