

CHESIL BANK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022

1. INTRODUCTION

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group was established in December 2018 and the serious work started in early April 2019, so work has continued for over 3 years despite the loss of momentum due to COVID restrictions. We have resumed face to face meetings but have also continued to make use of Zoom calls when appropriate.

2. OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Significant progress has been made during the last year with the publication of the AECOM reports on Design Codes and Site Assessments. These 2 reports together with the Call for Sites Documentation enabled us to hold Drop-in events in each village during September 2021 and obtain feedback from the community via the Options Consultation Survey. As a result of that survey and comments which we received during the Drop-in events we were able to start work on developing the policy statements and Draft Plan. A series of meetings were held during December to review the early draft, which was refined during January and February 2022. This effort resulted in us seeking support from members of the Parish Council in March to move into the Pre-Consultation phase of work, once their comments had been incorporated.

Alongside this activity we worked with AECOM to produce 2 further comprehensive reports, one a Strategic Environmental Assessment and the other a Habitats Regulation Assessment, both published in February 2022.

An additional Business Survey was sent out in early November to over 40 businesses in CBPC and 15 responses were received. The main purpose of the survey was to establish the impact of COVID-19 on local businesses.

Our efforts to find a way of introducing Affordable Housing into the area continue with an initial focus on land in Portesham. Following consultation with both the landowners and Magna Housing, a meeting was held on the proposed site in February 2022. Magna expressed their interest in building a number of homes on the site, to be determined, with half being Affordable Homes and half open market housing. The landowners were in full agreement with this proposal and also were keen for this to be a collaborative project, involving Magna, the landowners and the Neighbourhood Plan SG.

We launched the Pre-Consultation Phase of work on the 20th April at which point the 3 main reports were sent to a number of stakeholders and we await their comments. Drop-in events have been arranged for each village (2 in each) during May, with the first one on the 14th May in Abbotsbury. Posters are on display in each village and an extract of the full draft plan has been produced as a booklet and posted through everyone's letterbox in order to ensure maximum publicity and to encourage them to complete the survey. Completion of the survey should give us an indication of the level of support for the Plan.

Finally, we have submitted our Grant Application to Locality and await their approval and transfer of funds.

3. LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022/2023

This coming year is a significant one for the NPSG. The Pre-Consultation activity is due to complete on the 20th June, at which point we will be examining all the comments we have received and determining the impact of those on the Draft Plan. Once it has been reworked then it will be reviewed by both members of the SG and the Parish Council. Following the completion of any amendments then the Plan will be submitted formally to the LPA for their scrutiny and comment. The next stage in the process will be to

appoint an external examiner at which point he or she will review the plan and make comments. The Examiner's report will be considered by both members of the PC and LPA. Once any rework has been carried out then work on making arrangements for the referendum can commence. It is intended to run the referendum in early summer 2023.

For a summary of all NPSG activities since its inception in early 2019, please refer to the Appendix.

Report prepared by Derek Troughton, Chair NPSG MAY 2022

APPENDIX

1. 22/10/2018: Public meeting to discuss if a Neighbourhood Plan activity should be launched.
2. 10/12/18: First Meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG). Since that first meeting a further 13 meetings were held during 2019 and early 2020. Work was suspended because of COVID-19 during March and April, but in May 2020 work was restarted through Zoom Meetings and a further 10 Zoom meetings have been held through to the end of March 2021, making a total of 25 SG Meetings.
3. Regular reports have been made to CBPC since March 2019, firstly through the Parish Councillors represented on the NPSG and subsequently by the NPSG Chairman (16 in all).
4. Two Annual budgets prepared and submitted to Locality, with the budget for 2021/22 in preparation.
5. 7 Newsletters have been either distributed to each household, been made available on the web site and/or featured in The Chesil.
6. 5 Surveys have been issued to the community, with the first in September 2019, a Business Survey and Employment Survey in February 2020 and a 3rd Survey and Young Persons' Survey in October 2020. Opinions were also sought from the community on Highway Safety in September 2019. In addition interviews were held with a number of Local Businesses in the Parish including in Abbotsbury the Bride Valley Farm Shop, The Spa Shop and the Abbotsbury Tourist Board; in Portesham, The Kings Arms and in Langton Herring, Character Farm Cottages/Lower Farm.
7. Meetings have also been held with Magna Housing and Ilchester Estates.
8. Sent comments on Government White Paper to Locality.
9. Sent comments on Dorset Council Local Plan to DC.
10. Worked with AECOM to produce Design Codes report and Site Assessments
11. Held Options Consultation Meetings in each village (2 sessions each) in September 2021. Also did a repeat exercise in Portesham because of concerns about the low level of responses.
12. Worked with AECOM to produce 2 further reports, one on Strategic Environmental Assessment and another on Habitat Regulation Assessment. These form part of the overall Pre-Consultation Process
13. Held a workshop on Affordable Homes and also invited a member of Dorset Council to talk to us about Community Land Trusts. We are also carrying out a Feasibility study on a site in Portesham jointly with the landowners and Magna Housing.
14. A second Business Survey was sent out in November 2021 in order to establish the impact of COVID-19 on local businesses.