

**Botley Neighbourhood Plan Committee (BNPC)**  
**Report to Botley Parish Council (BPC) meeting 12 November 2019**

Meeting of the BNPC, 16 October 2019

- 5 Councillors and 2 voting and 1 non-voting non-Councillors were present
- Jonathan Appleby joined the Committee as a non-voting non-Councillor and will consider applying to become a voting member.
- The Committee are still keen to have two further non-Councillors join the BNPC
- There is still no formal report from the Botley Traders survey
- The Committee were concerned that EBC had not engaged in any visible public consultation regarding the use of the monies from the New Homes Bonus Scheme. The suggestion that EBC might use the majority of these monies to fund Affordable Homes ran contrary to the stated purpose of supporting local infrastructure projects, especially in areas with significant housing development. **The Committee felt that if these concerns were supported by the BPC the matter should be discussed formally with EBC**
- The 84 comments on the BNP draft Objectives were considered individually and a revised set of Objectives agreed for submission to Planet for advice
- The next meeting of the BNPC will be on 20 November 2019

Progress since the BNPC meeting

- The Chair of the BNPC voiced the concerns of the BNPC about the apparent lack of Botley Parish Council representation at the relevant Hearing sessions for the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan and is pleased that appropriate representation has been arranged
- One of the BNP Objectives identified was Heritage signs on the major roads crossing the Parish boundary, but these are no longer on the Botley Community & Infrastructure Priority list. The BNPC hopes that the BPC will support inclusion of these signs on the C&IP list
- Two public meetings to discuss the BNP Vision and revised Objectives have been arranged for Tuesday 07 January (Diamond Jubilee Hall) and Monday 13 January 2020 (The Market Hall), doors open at 7.30 pm
- The revised BNP draft Objectives and the 52 Objectives so far created in the Working Papers were discussed extensively with Planet and a further draft created with 20 Community Objectives and 46 Community Aspirations (current draft in NP Evidence Base as BNP DRAFT Vision & Objectives Statement)
- Planet have pointed out that the achieving the current 46 Community Aspirations, which might increase in number as the remainder of the Working Papers are completed, would be the responsibility of the BPC when the BNP was adopted. **They have advised that the BPC should consider the implications of this**

Working Paper for the Council to consider prior to public access

- None

There are revisions to previously agreed Papers in the following

- Botley Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Paper (v20) in NP Evidence Base
- Education Paper (v9) in NP Evidence Base
- Infrastructure Paper (v23) in NP Evidence Base
- Brief details of the changes are outlined in Change list 2019-11-12 in NP Evidence Base

## **Change list for Parish Council meeting on 12 November 2019**

### Botley Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment in NP Evidence Base

- Update to SHLAA-3-37-C (land north of Hedge End and railway line) – to reflect the phase 3 Reserved Matters application for 236 dwellings

### Education Paper in NP Evidence Base

- New paragraph 2.5 covering local voluntary educational groups

### Infrastructure Paper in NP Evidence Base

- New paragraph 5.14 and 5.15g - support Eastleigh Borough Council in enforcement actions relating to illegal encampments, illegal developments and illegal tethering of horses

## **The New Homes Bonus Scheme**

The New Homes Bonus Scheme was introduced by the Government in 2011. It matches the Council Tax raised over the first six years after new build, conversions or long-term empty dwellings brought back into use. Also, there is additional payment for the construction of Affordable Housing.

Councils and communities work together to decide how to spend the extra funding - whether Council Tax discounts for local residents, boosting frontline services like rubbish collection or providing local facilities like swimming pools and leisure centres. Local Councils can decide how to spend the New Homes Bonus. The Government expect Local Councils to consult communities about how they will spend the money, especially communities where housing stock has increased. However, Local Councils are entitled to allocate part of these funds to requirements other than directly improving the resources for local communities.

To date there does not appear to have been any consultation with Parish Councils or directly with residents of Eastleigh Borough concerning the £13,224,610 so far paid to the Borough. Links to two excellent Local Council consultations are shown below.

[https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/documents/10586/8553462/New+Homes+Bonus+April+2019\\_lr.pdf/d8207c27-155a-08e8-83aa-fe196398bc7b](https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/documents/10586/8553462/New+Homes+Bonus+April+2019_lr.pdf/d8207c27-155a-08e8-83aa-fe196398bc7b)

<http://www2.guildford.gov.uk/councilmeetings/documents/s4506/Item%2016%203%20-%20Appendix%203%20-%20New%20Homes%20Bonus%20policy.pdf>

Further information on the New Homes Bonus Scheme can be found on the two web sites shown below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2010-to-2015-government-policy-house-building/2010-to-2015-government-policy-house-building#appendix-8-new-homes-bonus>

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN05724>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-homes-bonus-provisional-allocations-2018-to-2019>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-homes-bonus-final-allocations-2017-to-2018>

## **Impact of BNP Community Aspirations on BPC**

Currently there are 46 Community Aspirations which are likely to be included in the Submission BNP and it is entirely possible that others will be added as the Working Papers are completed and after the public meetings with the community are held. It will fall to the BPC to attempt to deliver these, even if the actual agency empowered to create the change required is not the BPC. In view of this, the BPC should consider the following questions:

- Are the BPC willing to take on these Aspirations and how will they be delivered, or;
- If not, then the BPC needs to consider which ones it is willing to work

If the BPC is taking on this work it should consider creating a Community Business Plan to work on alongside the BNP. With the Aspirations in a separate document it would be easier for the BPC to monitor delivery and to be able to demonstrate to the community that they have taken all points seriously. The on-going work required for both the Community Business Plan and for regularly refreshing the BNP so that it is ready for its five yearly review might best be undertaken by a sub-group of the BPC answerable to the full Council. This sub-group should have significant community representation. Professional help in developing the Community Business Plan would be highly desirable.

David Weeden  
Chair BNPC  
05/11/2019