

## BNP CHAIRMANS REPORT – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Following on from my Addendum to the BNPC report of last month, there have been significant progress on the BNP's journey.

The latest information from EBC is that our 'screening draft' has been forwarded to the 3 Statutory Organisations: **The Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England**, for their individual assessments of our NP and who have a maximum 5-week response time. (Due at the end of this month)

While we await these responses:

Members may recall we had approached **AECOM** to discuss the technical support processes required to provide the necessary '**STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT**' (SEA) and a '**HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT**' (HRA).

Members may also recall that the quoted timescales for **AECOM** to deliver the required **SEA/HRA** reports would be approximately **12** months to prepare and deliver. **AECOM** have been given specific targets directly from HM Government to concentrate on more time critical projects and as such this timeframe has been confirmed as the now normal timescale for both Neighbourhood Plans and Local Plans,

Having this length of delay to the progress of the BNP is, in our opinion, not acceptable and to mitigate against these inherent delays, we requested that our specialists Plan-et explore other more acceptable alternatives.

At this point, I would like to point out, that there is a paucity of organisations who are qualified and more importantly able to carry out these very specific tasks within acceptable timeframes. I can report that Plan-et, have sourced two highly qualified and respected organisations who are available to carry out these two tasks and who have confirmed that, following their appointment by BPC, they will deliver these two reports within 6 weeks.

We have been provided with 2 quotations (dlp consultants & the Landscape Partnership) with a combined total of **£7422.00** + VAT for the work to be carried out.

I have tabled a motion for inclusion in next week's BPC Meeting to request that the Parish Council agree to authorise this amount to enable us to continue the journey of our NP.

Finally, I have been informed by Plan-et, that from the beginning of March, there is to be a new raft of grants made available to those NP's that are already in progress as such, we shall be applying for inclusion in these new funding programs as soon as they are open. (Available £££'s)

Councillor Stephen Wildin

Chairman Botley Neighbourhood Planning Committee