

Botley Neighbourhood Plan Committee (BNPC)
Report to Botley Parish Council (BPC) meeting 08 January 2019

Meeting of the BNPC, 19 December 2018

- 6 Councillors and 1 non-Councillor were present
- The Committee welcomed Peter Kemp, as a voting non-Councillor member. Peter will be joining the Housing Working Group (WG) and hopefully one other WG
- The Committee decided to approach Planet to arrange a bespoke training package (3-4 hours on a Saturday) on general aspects Neighbourhood Plan (NP) development and this will be open to all Committee members and all Parish Councillors
- On 14 December 2018 an application for a basic £9000 NP grant from Locality was made on behalf of the BPC
- The Committee is increasingly concerned about our apparent inability to attract non-Councillors Botley residents to join the BNPC
- The Committee is becoming increasingly dissatisfied with the Eastleigh Borough Council Planning Department failure to allocate an Officer to our NP process and to agree a date for a meeting to discuss EBC's Policies that might impact on our NP after 3 emails since 25 October 2018 requesting this and a response on 02 November 2018 stating that an Officer would be appointed within a week
- The number of WGs has been reduced from 9 to 8 (Communications; Economy; Education; Health; Housing includes Planning Policy Framework; Infrastructure; Locality includes Culture, Heritage, History, Leisure & Tourism; Transport). Considerable work was reported by all the WG Leads and it is hoped that some of the evidence base and draft policy papers will be available by the 20 February 2019 meeting. Kevin Williamson has agreed to help the Housing WG. In view of the lack of numbers in some WGs it may be necessary to temporarily suspend the Operational Policy that no Councillor may be on more than 2 WGs
- The next meeting of the BNPC will be on 16 January 2019

Progress since the BNPC meeting

- Sadly, Cllr Angel Myerscough has decided to resign from the BPC, but has agreed to remain on the Health WG
- On 20 December 2018 Locality agreed to grant £4469 of the £5334 I had applied for use in developing our NP. Locality had reduced the amount for specific topic training from £720 to £180 and the amount for the Minutes Secretary from £650 to £325 (5 meetings were after 31 March 2019). The grant specifies the activities covered but we can apply to vary this. Any unspent funds on 31 March can either be directly transferred to the next financial year (if the activity remains unaltered) or the funds returned to Locality and a new application made. With the BPC's agreement we will be applying for the balance of the £9000 for the financial year commencing 01 April 2019 against specific costed activities. Due diligence was completed on 03 January 2019 and grant payment should be made before 11 January 2019
- On 04 January 2019 a further and final request for a meeting with the EBC Planning Department was made and if there is no satisfactory response a complaint will be lodged with Nick Tustian, the Chief Executive of EBC, and James Brokenshire, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government

Cllr David Weeden
Chairman BNPC
04/01/2019