

**Public Meeting held on Tuesday 17th October 2017 at 7pm,
Meeting hosted by Barbara Pond, Glos. Rural Community Council
to provide information on Neighbourhood and Community Plans**

In attendance: Barbara Pond (GRCC)
Parish Cllrs J Cowen, R Daniel, L Hicks, B Rogers, B Sumner, B Wragge
County Cllr P Hodgkinson; Ward District Cllr L. Wilkins
W. Masefield (Greystones)
7 residents

Barbara Pond opened the meeting by circulating sample plans in the various plan formats to be discussed during the evening. She advised that:

- all plans defer to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Local Plan, currently submitted by CDC for examination.
- the plans target different objectives and have varying degrees of legality/enforceability - communities should therefore identify what the priority issues are within their community and this will establish which plan is most appropriate to help achieve those objectives.
- all plans are driven by a Steering Group and rely heavily on community volunteer involvement.
- all plans are likely to produce a benefit in terms of success from grant funding organisations.
- Plans can take between 6m and 5 years to complete, depending on the type of plan chosen. Costs vary, but a Neighbourhood Development Plan costs between £11k-£12k;

The different plans available are:

1. Parish Plan

A community led Parish Plan is not a formal or legal planning document but can be used as a source of information when planning officers are preparing reports.

The planning system is specifically about land use and how the land available in settlements can be utilised and developed. Where a community led Parish Plan can aid the planning system is when it provides evidence of residents' views on issues such as affordable housing, conservation areas and other land use issues.

It can also address issues on a wider range of topics eg speeding, highway issues, dog fouling etc.

A community led Parish Plan is a statement of how the community itself sees itself developing over the next few years. It is a living document that develops over time reflecting the views of the community as a whole, and contains an action plan which identifies practical steps that can be taken to help the community achieve its vision for the future.

It can also be prepared as a precursor to the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

2. Community Design Statement

This is not a legal document; the emphasis is on issues which relate to the community setting or design.

The Statement is not intended to cover individual issues but takes a broader view of the land based use within a settlement.

3. Parish Priorities

This is a comparatively new plan format and is primarily used as a toolkit which helps a community to assess its needs by comparing existing levels of amenities and facilities against national benchmarks. This may be particularly useful once Community Infrastructure Levies are introduced, as communities will automatically be allocated infrastructure contributions to spend as and where needed. This toolkit can ensure those contributions are spent in the right way.

4. Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Plan is a legal planning document which is owned by the Parish Council and, once adopted, must be recognised by the Local Planning Authority (CDC). It addresses issues specifically relating to planning and development, but will not address other local non-planning issues, such as speeding, dog fouling etc;

The Plan must accord in all respects with the National Planning Policy Framework ("NPPF"), which currently contains a presumption in favour of development. It cannot, therefore, be used to prevent development within a settlement. Conversely, it acknowledges that a community is willing to accommodate development but wishes to have its say as to the type, scale and location of that development within the settlement.

It will require the setting up of a web-site, and social media accounts to ensure good lines of communication throughout the consultation process.

The average cost for preparation of a Plan is £11k-£12k. Grants are available but are highly unlikely to cover the full cost of the Plan preparation. Any shortfall is borne by the community.

An NDP takes between 3 and 5 years to complete and can only be adopted following a local referendum;

Q&A Session:

Q: Would any of these plans be able to affect or prevent issues such as the change of use of local shops to increasing numbers of catering businesses (eg the newsagent)?

A: Not if the change of use is permitted under the NPPF.

Q: Many residents are concerned at the direction Bourton is taking, in that the needs of visitors appear to be being prioritised over those of residents – will these plans help in that respect?

A: If residents don't feel empowered, these processes can help them take back control in some problem areas, provided the objectives are not contrary to NPPF or the Local Plan.

Q: Can these plans help to reinstate/protect the heritage design element in the village centre?

A: An NDP can contain a design element.

Q: Will grant funders look more favourably on "green" projects as a result of the level of consultation involved in a Plan preparation?

A: Communities usually find that most grant applications that are supported by a Plan objective are successful.

Q: The traditional means of consultation doesn't appear to be able to assess the needs and concerns of modern families in Bourton – can an NDP help?

A: No, an NDP is only concerned with issues that relate to land-based uses; however some infrastructure deficiencies eg insufficient school or doctor surgery facilities could be addressed through the identification of a need for developer Community Infrastructure Levy Contributions if development does take place.