

MINUTES FROM NDP MEETING (PUBLIC SESSION) – 7pm CHURCH HOUSE
7th February 2019

Attendance: Mike Hobbs **MH**; Julie Wheeldon **JW**; Peter Male **PM**; Keith Baker **KB**; Rob Humphries **RH**; Greg Hall **GH**;

Volunteer Sec: Tom Wheeldon **TW**

Apologies: Georgina Kelly **GK**;

Other attendees: Parish Council Chairman **Cllr P Charles**; 22 parish residents;

The Chairman **MH** called the meeting to order.

1. Opening Statement

MH thanked the residents for their attendance. He offered the first hour for discussion, and was mindful that if the discussions needed to run-over the group are prepared to carry on with the session until the usual time of meeting closure at 9pm.

Following two previous public session initiatives, the NDPG have taken the advice from residents to tailor the events for specific questions. In order to guide the process the NDPG have formed a diary of topics that have a bearing on the production of a parish Neighbourhood Development Plan. The topic for this meeting is **Traffic & Parking**.

All comments were captured on 'flip chart' pages by the group secretary, and will form the main detail for the production of these minutes.

Comments received from parishioners who were unable to attend have also been included with the comments from the evening.

These minutes will be forwarded to the Parish Council for consideration of the identified comments by their 'Traffic & Parking Committee'.

2. Comments from the Traffic & Parking discussion

All comments are presented under topic area (eg Speed; Parking; Volume of Traffic; Environmental impact; Miscellaneous). Comments gathered are presented as questions or statements of opinion. Where possible responses have been included in **bold** type for information:

SPEED

- Improved traffic calming. The present 'narrowing' arrangements on Ashbrook Lane / Lichfield Road invite speeding to occur. Uttoxeter Road arrangements are slightly better, but residents have observed traffic driving through without much evidence of slowing down level.

Pass to PC for consideration.

- Consider raised area at junctions to ensure that traffic is moving slowly at these hazardous spots.

NDPG to investigate this topic when producing the NDP.

- Roadside parking provides a form of traffic calming, but needs to have enough spaces for vehicles to pull into to allow oncoming traffic to pass.
- Permanent speed monitoring devices to indicate / warn drivers of exceeding the limit. Used in many other parishes throughout the country. Our problem needs to be expressed to the vehicle drivers regularly and with clarity.
- Speed limit signs provided to residents to place on wheelie bins.

Pass to PC for consideration.

- Consider 20mph speed limit throughout the village.

NDPG to investigate this topic when producing the NDP.

- Speeding is a long standing issue within the community / parish. It requires serious consideration now (as well as in the production of a NDP for the future). /There is a need to think creatively to convey the message to all driver s (eg aesthetic changes; village gateways etc).

Pass to PC for consideration.

NDPG to investigate this topic when producing the NDP. There are case studies to view for ideas.

- Impose axle weight limit.

PC and NDPG to investigate.

- Seek to change habits by 'officially advising' drivers who operate large vehicles in an irresponsible manner. All vehicles (particularly large ones) must drive safely and at an appropriate speed to the conditions within the community.
- Seek to effectively discourage traffic to pass through the village. (eg Speedbumps; restrictions to affect journey times).

NDPG investigate this topic when producing the NDP.

- Investigate the current speed designation for the lanes around the community.
- Impatience and uncaring attitudes amongst some drivers is the main problem. It would be wrong to demonise a particular group, so we must seek to address our concerns to all road users.

- We live in a farming community and many people's livelihoods depend on such traffic. Whilst comments about controlling traffic may be valid, we are in danger of alienating the very section of the population who could be of greatest benefit to the overall plan. ***This item was received after the meeting and is included for completeness*.**
- Would it be an idea for the NDPG to seek to recruit one or two of the farming community to the group, as a possibility that they could help influence positive outcomes?

The NDPG would welcome input from the farming community. Every parishioner is invited to contribute to the NDP process. Please contact the NDPG to see how you can become involved.

PARKING

- Parking on bends causes moving traffic to 'chance' passing it without clear knowledge of other oncoming traffic.

Pass to PC for consideration.

NDPG to consider the issue when producing the NDP.

- Street parking currently causes blind spots at a number of points throughout the community (eg junctions and exit points from residences)

Pass to PC for consideration.

NDPG to consider the issue when producing the NDP.

- Current parking on High Street around the pedestrian crossing (eg on and around the zig-zags) is causing blind spots for pedestrians and drivers alike. The issue is believed to be increased during daytime hours through parking in this area by non-resident drivers.

Pass to PC for consideration.

- Other areas in the community where white lines are in place, motorists are parking without consideration for the hazardous outcome that is caused.

Pass to PC for consideration.

- Blind Spots due to street side parking causing difficulty to residents of Ivy Close when exiting on to the main highway.

Pass to PC for consideration.

NDPG to consider the issue when producing the NDP.

- Buses conveying pupils using Abbots Bromley School facilities remain parked on the main street and walkways (often at blind corners) significantly adding to the parking issues affecting the community.

Pass to PC for consideration.

- Gather community-wide evidence of poor / illegal parking.

Pass to PC for consideration for advising residents how to pass information in relation to parking issues.

- Traffic and parking problems will always be with us. Trying to relieve it by placing yellow lines throughout the village may not be the answer. It would impact significantly on existing residents who have nowhere else to park.
- The question of car parking is likely to be with us forever. Many of the concerns raised have come to light through more recent development. Consideration should be given to an appropriate increase in the development boundary when considering future development, in order to overcome the increase in congestion within an already congested community. ***This item was received after the meeting and is included for completeness*.**

NDPG to consider the issue when producing the NDP.

- Future housing development must ensure that effective parking needs are fully met to ensure that the community is not negatively impacted.

NDPG to consider the issue when producing the NDP.

- A great deal of compromise is required when making decisions to overcome the T&P issues. The rural environment plays a big part in the difficulties that exist, and we should not negatively impact this very important part of our heritage.
- The Crown Public House car park is essential for public use at this time. If the use to the public is lost it will create serious issues.
Other businesses that afford residents an off road parking opportunity must be protected from development.

NDPG to consider the issue when producing the NDP.

- The NDP must consider a 20/30 year expectation of car parking in the main conurbation of Abbots Bromley.

NDPG to consider the issue when producing the NDP. Parish development/expectations in the future are part of the consideration for producing a NDP.

- Data evidencing car usage /ownership required.

Some information was gathered during a previous survey. Further evidence is required in order to more robustly support this data. The NDPG will consider doing this once independent guidance on how to proceed has been provided. This guidance is being progressed following a formal directive by the PC.

VOLUME OF TRAFFIC

- Residents on the highway through the main conurbation of Abbots Bromley are blighted by road vibration produced by heavy vehicles causing damage to their properties. Many of these properties are Listed Buildings and are contained within a Conservation Area.
- Current highway direction signs should be positioned in such a way to influence traffic away from the main conurbation of Abbots Bromley (e.g. at the Rugeley turn to direct traffic to Lichfield over the reservoir via the Rugeley by pass).

Pass to PC for comment.

- Change of highway designation through Abbots Bromley.
- Speed-watch data indicates typical volume of traffic through Abbots Bromley.

NDPG seek to obtain this data from the Speed-watch team.

- Consider taking data evidence of types of vehicles that transit the main conurbation of Abbots Bromley.

The Speed-watch team aren't able to effectively gather this type of information alongside the other important data that they gather in support of their Speed-watch duties.

Residents are encouraged to consider how they could help support the evidence gathering of vehicle type.

- Data previously obtained by residents is available for traffic movement on Schoolhouse Lane.

NDPG to obtain the data previously gathered by residents for traffic movement on Schoolhouse Lane.

- What is the anticipated increase to heavy traffic volume when HS2 development is being carried out locally?

Pass to PC for comment.

- Volume of traffic passing through the main conurbation of Abbots Bromley must be properly considered when considering all Planning Applications. The village is already at/above the volume limit for many residents.

Pass to PC for consideration.

- Serious consideration must be given to the development of a road by-pass to the main conurbation of Abbots Bromley.

NDPG seek advice on this point.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- All pollution (eg emissions / vibration / noise etc) must be quantified in order to inform recommendations for reducing / overcoming it.

NDPG to consider the issue when producing the NDP.

- Emissions pollution is recognised as being more prevalent at vehicle 'calming points' due to acceleration / deceleration of vehicles.
- New build housing should have 'environment friendly' off road parking arrangement. (eg several options other than tarmac support improved rain water run-off and flood prevention).

NDPG will consider this suggestion when creating NDP Policies for any future perceived housing need.

- Consideration to be given to vehicle electric charging points for new build homes.

NDPG will consider this suggestion when creating NDP Policies for any future perceived housing need.

- Future housing development should consider the installation of solar panels, and the use ground source heating systems.

NDPG will consider this suggestion when creating NDP Policies for any future perceived housing need.

- Seek professional advice in relation to Environmental Impact caused by road traffic.

NDPG seek advice on this topic.

- Road surface needs improving and manholes re-setting.

Pass to PC for consideration.

- Consider the designation of "Quiet Lanes" around our local routes for walkers (eg Radmore Lane and Seedcroft). These are very popular routes for parishioners, which could be made more enjoyable and safer were the "Quiet Lanes" designation to be sought now before speeding motorists take over completely.

Pass to PC for consideration.

NDPG to consider the issue when producing the NDP.

MISCELLANEOUS

- NDPG need to seek input / involvement of younger people.

The NDPG agree with this point and have taken steps to seek to involve younger residents. The NDPG will continue to take steps to resolve this issue.

- Ensure wider visibility of future NDP activities to maximise the opportunity for obtaining community feedback.

The NDPG agree with this point and have taken steps to ensure wider visibility of NDP activities. Momentum is increasing with public engagement and the NDPG will continue to seek ways of promoting their work. Public input to the NDP process is essential for the production of a robust and inclusive Draft NDP which will be successful at referendum.

- The NDPG should consider visiting schools on parent's evenings as a method of widening their engagement with the public.

The NDPG agree and will seek to follow through with this suggestion.

- How have other NDP groups engaged with younger members of their parish.

The NDPG will look in to this and seek to learn from other NDP 'best practice'.

- 'Locality' funding support process requires a lot of work to complete, but is currently being processed by the NDPG and the PC. The intention is to obtain the services of an Independent Consultant to help guide the NDPG in the production of a robust and inclusive Draft NDP that will be successful when presented at public referendum.

- The NDPG should seek to raise funds locally to help support minor costs. Don't let the costs limit progress.

- Management of existing traffic through the parish should be considered before any major changes are made to the typical historical / conservation nature of the rural surroundings.

If motorists were to exercise more patience whilst driving through the main conurbation it would help greatly.

We could easily lose the uniqueness of what we have if we are not careful. Abbots Bromley is recognised for its history and rural surroundings and needs to be promoted for the place that it is. A few adjustments would retain much of the character. Too much change will alter it forever.

The NDPG welcome the comment and will seek to work with the community and wider parish in order to gauge public opinion for our unique environment. The NDP can ensure that Policies are created to safeguard the parish environment for future generations.

- The NDPG are providing a submission for the Spring 2019 'Bromley Bulletin', and March Parish News.

NDPG to make 'Bromley Bulletin' and Parish News submissions available by 15th February 2019.

- Whilst awaiting support from an Independent Consultant, the NDPG are using their time to gathering as much relevant data as possible in order to help inform the work required for production of a Draft NDP that reflects the wishes of the parish-wide community.

The meeting closed at 9pm. The NDPG are grateful to the attendees for their valuable contribution.

3. Agenda, date and time of next meeting

These minutes will inform the items for the next Agenda.

ACTION: MH to produce Agenda and distribute for comment at least 48hrs before the next meeting.

All **ACTION** points to be processed. If there are any problems in completing **ACTION's** get in touch with the committee for assistance ASAP.

Next meeting: 14th February 2019 – 7pm – Church House

ACTION: TW to book the room.

**THE NEXT PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE ON THURSDAY 7th MARCH 2019
7pm CHURCH HOUSE.**

THE TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION WILL BE:

“Heritage, Conservation and Historic Environment”