

MINUTES BHCP STEERING GROUP MTG WEDNESDAY September 24th 2014 at 10.00 am

AONB Meeting Room

Attending

Heather Stallard	Chair
Catherine Bass	Co-ordinator & Communications Group leader
Lisa Turner	AONB
Bruce Payne	Wellington w/o, AONB Management, Natural Futures
Ken Pearson	Churchstanton & Traffic, Transport & Highways Group leader

- 1 Minutes of last mtg June 19 2014 were read and approved.
- 2 Matters arising:
 - HS apologised for apparent lack of response in recent weeks due to email problems. Noted ALL that her email address is now heather@culmpyne.com –alternate addresses now redundant.
3. Steering Group membership:

Following resignation of both Cathy Gardner (Stockland), due to commitment to the EDDC Parishes Neighbourhood Plan preparation, and Geoffrey Sworder (Dunkeswell), through ill health, there are two vacancies on the Steering group which ideally should be filled by residents of EDDC parishes to retain representational balance on the steering group. CB

Request for applicants to be sent via Parish Clerks, webmasters and parish news editors in the relevant parishes to seek replacements. Item also to be inserted in View from the Blackdowns.
4. Updates to Action Group activity
Communications:
 - Website: CB reported that the website is not yet quite financially self-supporting (revenue CB vs. maintenance costs)
 - KP requested that the RSS News feed operation be checked with Cosmic. Network still suffering from lack of engagement in several quarters, perhaps through lack of CB understanding of what it endeavours to fulfil for parishes. Need again to re-engage with View from the Blackdowns; also to recommend reciprocal support between groups publishing in the paper eg Woodland News to raise profile.
 - Broadband: HS noted that the Blackdown Hills Business Association (BHBA) has been asked by Connecting Devon & Somerset (CDS, through Nick Eames, board member and director at SuperCat, Dunkeswell) to provide business evidence of effect of slow/inadequate BB CB speeds. BHBA to be approached with a view to distributing the same request to parish councils since these are also heavily reliant on BB for communications. PCs to be circulated and invited to comment. Local MP to be informed of outcome.

Traffic, Transport and Highways:

 - Agreed to write letter on behalf of parishes in support of the appeal by SW Resilience Campaign regarding the fragility of transport links into the south west. Draft to be circulated to Steering group members.

Planning:

 - KP reported on application for a 500 pv panel solar farm at Heather Cottage, and the apparent lack of cognizance of the AONB Management Plan in deliberations so far. There is also a new application for a land-fill site in the AONB up for consideration. LT confirmed that AONB MPs are prepared for and on behalf of their Local Authorities throughout the

country and are therefore intended to be material to all planning and development applications.

- KP concerned at the number of applications coming forward within the Blackdown Hills which appear not to consider sustainability as a priority. Localism in its current form is being applied top-down when the reverse should be the case. KP offered to lead on the development of definitions of sustainability, consistency of decision making and indicators of 'boundary crossing' to assist parishes in their responses to planning applications. KP

5. BHPN - Aims of the network:

- a. Response to Wellington without Clerk and Chair, noting all activities of network to date, following the Community Plan publication
- b. Policy/'Parish toolkit' development. Agreed to draft a short document using summaries of relevant letters of support etc issued by the steering group. LT to ask Katherine Findlay to offer time to make this user friendly and help convey the message. CB/LT

5 Finance.

Payments since last mtg: £193.60 [£53.60 to Gill Beardsworth (expenses Sept – May). £15 to Churchstanton re hire of Village Hall for June Stg Gp mtg, £ 125.00 Cosmic (annual hosting of website July 2014- July 2015)].

Receipts since last mtg: £115.12 (£100 WW parish sub 2013/2014, £15 WW webpage hosting)

Account balance at 04.09.2014 : £ 1923.50

Invoice in sum of £42.00 to Blackdowns Healthy Living and Activity Centre approved for online payment, with comment re the cost of kitchen use.

CB

Subscription invoices to be issued to participating parishes soon, together with advert renewals where appropriate.

5 AOB

- Request received from John Hart, Leader of DCC to address next General mtg. Date suggested Tuesday 25 November tbc., and invite John Osman of SCC to attend as well. Venue probably Blackdown Healthy Living & Activity Centre. CB
- Date of next Stg gp mtg Thursday 13 November venue tba