

Open Meeting (10th February 2018) Questions

Questions	Response
Questions which were addressed at the Open Meeting	
Who is eligible to vote on the Claverton Neighbourhood Plan at the Referendum	<p>Further to the discussion at the meeting the following is the position.</p> <p>The Referendum is organised by B &NES Electoral Registration Officer in the same way as a General Election. Those eligible to vote are those on the Electoral Register at a date which will be notified at the time of the Referendum.</p> <p>There will be an opportunity for new applicants to be added to the register as well as being able to vote by post or vote by proxy.</p> <p>The actual voting will take place on a Thursday at St Mary's Church. No on-line voting.</p> <p>Even if you are not eligible to vote we are giving as many people and stakeholders with an interest in the Parish to give their input to the policies and draft plan before it finally goes to a referendum.</p>
Does the Neighbourhood Plan take account of communities on both sides of the river.	<p>All of Claverton's neighbours including adjoining Parish Councils and neighbouring stakeholders have been invited to the Open meeting and given the opportunity to express any issues they may have. Those residents of Warleigh Weir immediately across the river and those impacted by Warleigh Weir were given an opportunity to complete the questionnaire and invited to the Open Meeting. All comments and views will be taken into consideration as the policies are developed. There will also be further opportunities to contribute their thoughts before the final plan is sent for approval</p>

<p>Other Neighbourhood Plans have included a narrative on Parish issues which cannot be included in the Policies</p>	<p>Where there are issues or topics which cannot be included in the Policies they may be able to be included as community aspirations in a separate section from the land use planning policies. However, they will not carry any legal weight and because of this will not be subject to the External examination.</p>
<p>What is the timeline for the Neighbourhood Plan</p>	<p>Currently the Steering Committee hope to have the Policies developed by May2018 with the aim of getting them to B&NES in June 2018. From then on we are in the hands of B&NES, the External Examiner and Referendum before successfully having an approved Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
<p>Concern was expressed over the issue of a potential A36/46 Link Road and the effect that such a development would have on the Parish of Claverton</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan is a land-use planning document which cannot deal with traffic/transport issues unless they relate to a new development. The majority of traffic transport issues are dealt with by the Highway's Authority. However, it is possible to include aspirations within the Plan relating to issues of potential development. In drafting the policies, it will be important to write them in a way to mitigate risks that this type of development may have on the community.</p> <p>The Parish Council in conjunction with the Valley Parish Association will continue work on this issue.</p>
<p>Concern was expressed about potential noise and light pollution following the American Museums garden development plans</p>	<p>The Deputy Director of the American Museum confirmed that they want to coexist with the local community and confirmed that there will not be any new fixed lighting or sound systems connected to the development.</p>

<p>Questions not dealt with at the Q & A session at the meeting</p>	
<p>Is this the last chance for the public to contribute to the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	<p>No. Once the policies have been developed and the draft Neighbourhood Plan is ready it will be circulated to all residents and interested parties for their comments. All comments will be considered and if appropriate the draft plan will be modified to address issues raised. The updated draft Plan will go to B&NES to check it conforms with their Core Strategy/Placemaking Plan and National Planning Guidelines before being examined by the Independent External Examiner. Any changes required by the Examiner will be made to the draft and finally, the document will go to a public Referendum where you have your final say as to whether or not the NP is adopted.</p>
<p>What is the view of the parish council regarding installation of solar panels and wind turbines in areas close to the village.</p>	<p>These would need to be considered in terms of location and impact on the character of the Parish as stated in the policy we put forward. We will need to formulate a clear policy on this.</p>
<p>Does the neighbourhood plan have teeth or is this just another quango.</p>	<p>Before a Neighbourhood Plan can be adopted it has to be examined by an Independent Examiner who will check that the due process has been followed and all the policies have been evidenced. The examiner will also require adjustments to the wording of the policies if they consider it to be necessary for clarity or to conform with National policies etc. Finally, the document will go to a public Referendum where you have your final say as to whether or not the NP is adopted. If adopted then it becomes a legal part of B&NES Core Strategy. And needs to be recognised in planning decisions.</p>
<p>How will we know that the NP is effective in helping the Parish retain its character and continue to be a great place to live and work.</p>	<p>As a community you will have had the opportunity to help identify the various objectives which will enable us to develop the policies which we believe are needed to support your vision for the future. The policies will need to be crafted carefully so that they stand up to any challenges that might be made by potential developers etc wanting to change its character. But its not just the NP which will ensure that its character is retained it is the community as a whole.</p>

Are we not already covered by the protection given by The Green Belt, conservation Area etc.

We are in a Green Belt area as well as AONB etc. Whilst B&NES has said this provides protection against development in these areas. There have been incidences where Green Belt land has been released for housing development including Whitchurch and Sulis Down within B&NES not to mention Culham in South Oxfordshire so it would now be naïve to consider this couldn't happen especially with the growing pressure for new housing.