

Neighbourhood Plan Open Meeting - An Overview Saturday 10th February 2018 at the American Museum

Arrival and refreshments 10.30 - 11am

Many members of public arrived, signed in and were offered refreshments. Thirty minutes were set aside to give people chance to gather and talk to each other. There was time for the public to examine the displays including:

- A display highlighting the problem of light pollution including a Star Count Challenge. A count sheet was distributed. Returned surveys will be entered into a prize draw.
- Information about the Pumping Station and its history
- A photo timeline of how Claverton has changed, land use and community.
- Information on the role of St Mary's Church
- Relevant maps, Claverton Character Assessment (2007), example of a Neighbourhood Plan (Fairfield), the narrative responses from the questionnaire, a hard copy of the B&NES Core Strategy & Placemaking Plan and a list of Planning Definitions.

Members of the Steering Committee and Parish Council were helping at displays and wore name badges to share what role they have.

Presentation by Vi Jensen (Chair of Steering Committee and Parish Councillor) 11- 11.30am

Richard Mould (RM), Parish Councillor, introduced himself as Chair of the Open Meeting. RM welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming and also thanked Julian Blades for making the American Museum available for the Open Meeting. RM introduced the members of the Steering Committee and members of the Parish Council to the public and introduced Vi Jensen (VJ) as chair of the Steering Committee.

VJ spoke for 30 minutes explaining why we want to have a Neighbourhood Plan for Claverton and outlining the steps involved and timescale of implementing a Plan. VJ also provided feedback to the public on the key responses that came from the questionnaire.

Question time 12-12.45pm

Members of public were invited to ask any questions they had on the Neighbourhood Plan.

- A number of members of the public asked about the Referendum and specifically who is eligible to vote on the Claverton Neighbourhood Plan at the end of the process. VJ explained that the referendum is organised by B&NES. Some members of public expressed concern that people who live outside the Parish can vote on the Claverton Neighbourhood Plan. However, other members of public who have a connection to Village and have been part of the consultation want the opportunity to vote even though they are not residents. The Chair of Batheaston Steering Committee confirmed that the Referendum is conducted by B&NES and that a number of successful referendums have already been held. VJ will double-check the details of the voting process and clarify the position.
- Another member of public asked if the Neighbourhood plan takes account of communities both sides of river. VJ confirmed that Claverton's neighbours were included in the consultation and were invited to complete the questionnaire and were invited to this Open Meeting. Additionally the Steering Committee communicate with neighbouring Parish Councils.
- A member of public highlighted that other Neighbourhood Plans include a narrative on Parish issues which cannot be included in the Policies. VJ clarified that a Claverton Neighbourhood Plan can have aspirations which are not part of the policies.
- A member of the Parish Council asked about the timeline of the Neighbourhood Plan project. VJ confirmed that the Steering Committee hope to have developed the policies by May 2018, with the aim of sending them to B&NES the following month. It is important that our policies do not

conflict with B&NES Core Strategy. At this point B&NES, with whom we have a continuing relationship, will manage the timescale. Once B&NES have reviewed our Plan, they will provide us with the names of 3 independent examiners and Claverton Parish Council will be able to choose the most appropriate, presumably the one with most experience of small rural communities such as ours.

- A resident of Claverton Down expressed concern that Claverton is growing away from Claverton Down. RM agreed that both communities have lots of common issues (especially concerning developments at the University).
- A village resident flagged up the issue of an A36/46 Link Road. Resident concerned that any link road would open up a large amount of development and would have a dramatic and devastating impact on Claverton. The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) is lobbying government ministers to include transport projects, including an A36/A46 link road, in the next government road investment strategy. Therefore in writing policies, it will be important to write them in a way to mitigate risks of such a massive development. The VPA has already written to the Department of State for Transport to make a representation and information is available for anyone to look at on the Bath Preservation Trust website. RM thanked resident for eloquent summary of issue and Anna Beria, chair of Claverton Parish Council, confirmed that the Parish Council are working in partnership with the VPA to do all they can. Ward Councillor Veal confirmed his objection to the proposed link road, though expressed his personal opinion that it will never happen due to astronomical cost and geological unsuitability.
- Pete Dunn (PD), member of Steering Committee, was asked about future plans for the future of the Pumping Station at Claverton. PD advised that they faced many challenges including parking issues on Ferry Land and the Weir. He confirmed that they do own land off Ferry Lane which is used for staff car parking, but would be completely unsuitable for provision of public parking. There is also an empty cottage at bottom of Ferry Lane. As the cottage is of significant historical interest to the pumping Station, they have ambitions to use it as a visitor centre. The CRT will assess any proposal.
- After a short film on the American Museum garden development plans, a member of public expressed concern about noise and light pollution. Julian Blades, member of Steering Committee and Deputy Director of American Museum, confirmed that the American Museum want to coexist with the local community and confirmed there will be no new fixed lighting or sound systems connected to development.

An Activity - A chance for public to share views 12.45 -1.15pm

Before the activity, RM announced the winners of the Claverton photo competition

The activity is a chance for public to share their views. Everyone was given nine gold stars and were asked to use them to 'vote' for matters they felt most strongly about. The Steering Committee will count up and use to understand preferred possible policies or objectives.