

Bi-monthly Progress Note to Abbots Langley Parish Council –
Report Nineteen – 1st May 2019

The Neighbourhood Planning Group last met on Thursday 28th March 2019 at 7pm.
The next meeting is planned for Thursday at 7pm on 30th May 2019.

Work is continuing on:

Phase 5 'Building the Evidence Base'

Phase 6 'Identify the key Themes, Aims, Vision, Options.'

Phase 7 'Write the Neighbourhood Plan – Policies'

1. First Draft (80-page) of Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Plan

Peter Warman and our Neighbourhood Planning Consultant, Alison Eardley have prepared the First Draft of the Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Plan. It was discussed at our Planning meeting in March. At that meeting we confirmed the Vision Statement and associated Planning Objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan. Other members of the Planning Team and all other Parish Councillors are requested now to read the Document and add their own comments, suggestions and criticisms to be taken on board before the current draft is updated - ready for a Draft Publication of the Neighbourhood Plan to go public via the Parish Website in June 2019. During June to July 2019 the Neighbourhood Planning Policies need to be discussed and developed further to ensure the content is applicable to each of the identified 14 communities in the Parish of Abbots Langley.

2. Public Meeting of Bedmond Residents' Association on 29th March 2019

A public meeting of the Bedmond Residents Association (BRA) was held on the evening of 29th March. It was attended by over 120 local residents. Cllr Sara Bedford talked about the new Local Plan and Peter Warman gave a presentation/talk on the Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Plan. A copy of the presentation has been posted on the Neighbourhood Plan Section of the Paris Web site.

BRA Members have agreed to participate in the Neighbourhood Planning Programme by conducting the Residents survey and then suggesting proposals for their village and immediate surroundings based on the views of the local population. The Chair and Secretary of BRS have been invited to attend the Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Planning Bi-monthly Meetings.

3. Proposed meeting with Herts Growth at Hertfordshire CC.

The Herts Growth Team is provided to liaise with teams producing Local and Neighbourhood Plans across the County. Peter Warman wrote to them to request information on a number of topics in February 2019. No date could be arranged by the end of March 2019 'due to their pressure of work.' It is hoped this meeting can take place before the end of May.

Similarly, a date for the requested meeting with Ms Claire May at Three Rivers District is still to be arranged. Hopefully this can be done before the end of May 2019. It is intended to ask for her comments on the current Draft Copy of the Neighbourhood Plan, once the Parish Council have had a chance to provide their response.

4. Future Consultation Programme proposed for the Neighbourhood Plan

This programme is for implementation from June to October 2019. Then we hope to complete the Neighbourhood Planning Process by May 2020. The key ten points are as follows:

- i. Having produced our First Draft, we need to improve and add to this document by our committee and Parish Councillors adding their comments and hopefully receiving their approval before the end of May 2019.
- ii. During June 2019, we would like to publish the Draft Neighbourhood Plan on the Parish Web site - along with additional diagrams, photos and maps. This will allow the local residents and businesses to add their suggestions and comments.
- iii. We will increase public awareness of the Plan's availability by articles in 'My Abbots', postings on Social Media and other notices and press statements. We will encourage further use of the Abbots Langley Commonplace site.
- iv. We need to help the public know how they can contribute with their local knowledge and requirements. We need to tell them what local information we would like them to send us, etc. We need to compile a checklist from the Draft Report of specific topics of interest.
- v. Ideally, we should conduct focus groups in each of the identified 14 local neighbourhoods in the Parish during June to September 2019.
- vi. During September 2019, we need to update the Draft Neighbourhood Plan ready for public meetings and exhibitions in October 2019.
- vii. In the first week of October 2019, we have provisionally booked the exhibition space at the Henderson Hall to invite the public to come and see the proposals and discuss them with us. Depending on the availability of volunteers, we could go with the Exhibition to other locations such as the Hive, Leavesden Country Park and Bedmond Village Hall during October 2019.
- viii. We need to have a similar Exhibition event for local businesses in October 2019.
- ix. In November 2019, we will take on board all the public comments and any further published information on the new TRDC Local Plan. Then we can produce our Final Draft Neighbourhood Plan for submission to the TRDC to formally review. (We hope to send TRDC early drafts in June 2019 and September 2019 to ensure we get early feedback. Hopefully this will help us meet their requirements for the Final Draft.)
- x. Hopefully, TRDC will approve Draft Plan during January 2020, ready for review by the External Examiner by February 2020.
- xi. If all goes well, we could aim to hold the Public Referendum by early May 2020.

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