

Bi-monthly Progress Note to Abbots Langley Parish Council –
Report Twenty – 1st July 2019

The Neighbourhood Planning Group last met on Thursday 30th May 2019 at 7pm.

1. The next meetings are planned for Thursday at 7pm on **25th July** and **26th September 2019 at the Parish Council Offices**

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'

Phase 8 'Consultation on the Plan. Amend the Plan.'

When the above four phases are complete, the Draft Neighbourhood Plan will be submitted to the Three Rivers District Council. If accepted, the Plan will be subject to an External Review.

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

The First Draft of the Neighbourhood Plan was produced and circulated to NP Team members in early March 2019 for comment. Tim Perkins circulated the Report to all Parish Councillors on 1st April. Comments/questions were requested. No comments on the Draft Plan have been sent to Peter Warman by 28th June 2019 by the Parish Council members.

2. Approval Requested of the First Draft of the Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Plan (ALNP)

During June, it was intended to take the received comments on board and produce a second draft of the ALNP. This second draft is for publication on the Parish Web site so that a programme of public consultation can commence. **As no comments have been received to date from the Parish Council, the process of redrafting has not taken place. This is delaying the proposed work programme - as set out in the last Bi-monthly Report distributed on 1st May 2019.**

The First Draft of the Neighbourhood Plan requires **the formal approval of the Parish Council so that when the second draft is produced, guidance and comments from the Parish Council can be taken into account prior to publishing the second draft on the Parish Web Site for public consultation.** The Second Draft also requires the general approval and commitment of the Parish Council.

To produce the second draft, significant time will be given to presenting the written material including improved layout, photographs, maps and diagrams, etc. This is to ensure the public find the document easy to read and understand. Given the time and

cost of producing the second draft, this work cannot be justified before receiving, from the Parish Council, their broad approval of the First Draft.

3. Providing a local focus for the policies as applied to particular communities

The ALNP covers a large area. This includes rural settlements and at least fourteen distinct village/suburban communities. Summary sheets are required for each area to describe how the policies can be applied to each distinct community. Also the ALNP should provide evidence that local residents support the key policies and any proposals for their local area. A work programme and quote has been requested from our Neighbourhood Planning Consultant to conduct Focus Groups and provide these Locality Profiles, Policies and Proposals for selected communities. If the quote is acceptable, it is hoped that this work will be done during the next four months.

4. Liaison Meetings with Hertfordshire CC and Three Rivers District Council

No progress has been made this year in getting comments and information from the County Council and District Councils for the Neighbourhood Plan in response to specific written questions. The County Council offered to comment on the First Draft Report but answering specific questions was not possible due to lack of resources and their other priorities. In view of this, when the Second Draft of ALNP is produced, this will be sent to the District and County Council for their informal comments and guidance.

5. The Legal Requirement for Pre-submission consultation and publicity

See: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/regulation/14/made>

Phase 8 of the Neighbourhood Plan is a formal requirement to ensure there is widespread publicity for the content of the ALNP amongst residents and local businesses. This phase should insure there are places where the ALNP can be inspected and clear means for the public to make their contributions/representations within a consultation period of at least six weeks. **To undertake Phase 8, the Parish Council will need to recruit additional volunteers and/or commission suitable consultants to continue the work on the Neighbourhood Plan. The work programme will be stalled until these additional resources are available.**

The Chair has to reduce his involvement in the work on the Neighbourhood Plan to increase his care for his 99-year old mother who has undergone hospital tests in June. Given her serious diagnosis, his mother now requires full-time care at his family home for the rest of her life.

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