

Bi-monthly Progress Report for Abbots Langley Parish Council Report Thirty-two - 1st July 2021

The Neighbourhood Planning Group had a Zoom meeting on 27th May 2021 to discuss progress and the future work programme.

Progress on the Public Version of the Neighbourhood Plan

The Consultation Draft of the Neighbourhood Plan was published on the Parish Website at the end of April. Now that the Three Rivers District Council have published documents associated with the Local Plan, including the selected sites for development, the Neighbourhood Plan will be updated in July. This will include a revised set of Policy Maps in Chapter 15 showing the selected sites.

Publishing a Summary Report of the Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Plan

During June, a four-page A4 leaflet was written to explain the key elements of the Neighbourhood Plan for local residents and businesses. The leaflet invites comments on the Neighbourhood Plan. This will be published on the Parish website in July. Also 5000 copies are being printed for distribution to residents and businesses in the Parish.

Copies will be available in the Parish Office and, when Covid19 rules permit, available for the public at the local library and other local activity centres across the Parish. This is all part of the Consultation Programme which will continue until the end of September.

We are considering the best method to distribute the four-page leaflet to the 300+ local businesses located in the Parish to obtain their responses to the Policies in the Neighbourhood Plan. We have compiled a list of these businesses.

Preparation of Public Exhibitions in the Parish

During this Consultation Programme, local people will be invited to participate in Focus Groups, via Zoom Groups. Two public exhibitions will be held during the Summer. These events have been promoted in an article written for the July edition of Abbots News. The first exhibition will be at the Henderson Hub from 12th July to 13th August. The second exhibition will be held at the Village Hall in Bedmond, from the end of July, for the month of August. A 'Neighbourhood Plan' stand has been booked at the Autumn Fest event on Saturday 18th September.

When they are ready, copies of the ten exhibits to be used at the exhibitions will be published on the Parish website in the Neighbourhood Plan Section.

Invitation to meet with Warner Bros Studios on 16th June 2021

As part of our on-going discussions with local businesses, Peter Warman and Cllr Jon Tankard accepted an invitation to meet with Warner Bros on 16th June to explain our work on the Neighbourhood Plan and learn more about the Film Studios future plans and their willingness to remain supportive to local community projects. Warner Bros. explained their proposals for creating public open space in the field they own on the west side of their campus beyond Gypsy Lane. We received a copy of their Landscape and Ecological Management Plan. The Film Studios intention is to keep this field as a wildlife site. The Management Plan explains how this will be done.

New Grant received from National Government (Locality)

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have been successful in their application for an £8000 grant from Locality to help pay for the Consultation Programme and on-going work, preparing material for the Neighbourhood Plan documents. This grant is in addition to the initial £9,000 grant received in 2017/18 and the work paid for by Locality on the Local Housing Needs Study (2017) and the Building Design and Heritage Project (2021) by AECOM.

AECOM Project to identify distinctive and valued features of each local community

In June, the AECOM Consultancy Project had completed all three of its Virtual Tours of the Parish using Zoom Conferences with local residents. The third group was recruited from residents living in Leavesden, Boundary Way and Coates Way/Bucknalls Lane areas. Two further Zoom sessions have been held with Peter Warman during June to discuss the structure and content of their Report. They are hoping to complete their report by the end of August 2021.

Local Plan Regulation 18 – Public Consultation on the Preferred Policy Options and Sites for Potential Allocation - 11 June 2021 to 23 July 2021.

We expect the Parish Council will be discussing and responding to Three Rivers District Council with regard to their proposals and choice of sites affecting the Parish of Abbots Langley, that were published in June for the new Local Plan.

The Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group will take note of the answers submitted to the District Council by the Parish Council in response to:

- Part 1: Preferred Policy Options
- Part 2: Sites for Potential Allocation

These answers can be used to refine the policies and proposals set out in the Abbots Langley Neighbourhood Plan.

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