

## **Brimscombe and Thrupp NDP working group Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016**

**In attendance:** Greg – Parish councillor/local businessman, Jackie Tallock – Resident, Martin Whiteside – District councillor, Steve Picardy – Canals trust, Gavin McClafferty – Resident and local maker, Isa –resident, Joan – Resident, Nicky – Parish councillor, Bob Tyler – Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish councillor, Ricardo – Council Neighbourhood Development Plan support officer, David – Bowbridge and Thrupp residents association, Freya – Brimscombe resident, Shila – Thrupp resident.

**News:** We have officially been designated as a Brimscombe and Thrupp Neighbourhood planning area and need to now get delegated authority to act from the Parish Council.

Our group was joined for the evening by Ricardo – the council NDP support officer – and we took the opportunity to ask him more detailed questions about the process. These were broadly divided into **general discussion** and **actions**. Headlines from the general discussion is below, the actions are attached.

**General discussion** to better understand what our status now means: Once we have a plan we can powerfully influence non-detailed planning allocations. We can't necessarily block green field development but we can influence type and design of housing. We might be successful claiming that we are a high growth area and would get more support accordingly if so. We can take the initiative outlining what we think our community needs but anything we propose needs to have an evidence base and would be tested for viability.

There are Right to Build orders and Neighbourhood development orders as means for the community to initiate their own development.

There is a subgroup of the NDP interested in developing a parcel of land near the Brewery – it is County owned and could become a community asset. Grant funding is a possibility in order to turn it into an adventure playground. For more info contact Greg Pilley. We were reminded the NDP is not a tool that will enable us to deliver projects in the community – it is a means to identify and evidence what the community needs under the umbrella of the Local plan. However members of the group are free to join forces in order to work on other things in the community.

Can we involve children in the process? They need to be asked to make a meaningful contribution – real consultation, real research etc.

Discussed traffic and parking concerns – the advice was to build relationships with key members of the Highways dept. and get them round the table at one of our meetings. Then we could influence the Local transport plan.

Port development – the terms of reference for the port development are being drawn up in the next few months. There is an opportunity for the NDP to influence these if we can get organised quickly. Developers are being invited to submit outline plans and work on the infrastructure needs to take place within the next 12mths to meet funding criteria.

SALA Strategic availability of Land Assessment – this is a list being compiled by the LA to identify parcels of land that could be developed in the future. Land within our NP area may be on the list – this needs to be checked.

**Next steps:** Parish Council needs to delegate authority to the NDP group. The NDP group needs to adopt a formal Terms Of Reference – there is an example of a standard one of these on the council website.

The NDP group doesn't need to consult on everything but does need to build evidence to back any recommendations. The final plan will need to be voted on and approved by the community. There is grant funding available to recruit specialist support to help construct much of it.

We could break the process down into manageable steps and get a design statement for the neighbourhood produced relatively quickly – as soon as this is in place then developers have to make the case for working in a way that runs contrary to this. Without anything in place then builders need only be steered by the Local Plan which may not be in sufficient detail to protect our neighbourhood.

**Action planning** - Our key next phase is research. Action plan attached – please sign up to an area you are interested in and do one or two research actions. Our intention is to get much more informed and skilled as a group in order to target our effort to maximum effect and with maximum efficiency.

**AOB:** There will be another walk and talk around planning hotspots in our NDP area. (Feb 25<sup>th</sup>) and another planned for a weekend. The website has been updated and contains many useful links plus records of previous meetings – the address is [www.brimscombeandthrupp.org.uk](http://www.brimscombeandthrupp.org.uk). Please check it out!

### **Dates for future meetings:**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April, Sat 25<sup>th</sup> June, Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Sept, Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Dec