



BBEST Phase Two - 2021

If the referendum on the Plan is successful, then the role of BBEST changes substantially, because it no longer needs to develop a Plan.

It does have a statutory role in looking at the way that the Council implements the Plan's policies.

The existing Steering Group will be developing a transition plan, which will include a workshop with the Development Management planners (who will be responsible for implementing our policies). Support and help for the new BBEST role will be developed.

The new BBEST role is strongly focussed on review, and it is much smaller in scale than the past one.

It consists of seeing how our policies are working out in practice. It would ideally be carried out on an annual basis with Development Management planners. They have agreed to a workshop in Spring 2021 with the existing BBEST Steering Group, and in principle to further annual meetings with the new BBEST team to review the working of the Plan.

In summer 2021 there will be a Forum meeting to discuss this, and to consider who might want to be part of the new BBEST Steering Group that will be needed from the next 2021 AGM (around October) onwards. A model of a possible BBEST monitoring programme is provided below.

The future BBEST work

A small Steering Group would be likely to meet three times a year.

One meeting would be to plan the year, one would be with Development Management in a workshop to review the use of our policies, and one would be of the full Forum to hear and debate a report on the year, to carry out elections and other monitoring, and to consider the following year.

The meeting with Development Management planners would review a number of (already decided) planning applications that featured our policies. NB this is emphatically not a review of the decisions made, but a review of the understanding of our policies that lay behind those decisions.

The new Steering Group would need a minimum of five people: a Chair who convenes the Group and Forum, a Vice Chair who can deputise, a Secretary for administration, a Treasurer who will do BBEST accounts (and be responsible for BBEST Action accounts/tax unless that company is wound up), and a neighbourhood councillor.

Professor Peter Marsh, Chair BBEST NPF, March 2021