

BBEST AGM and Development Meeting, 2020 13.3.21

Present: Pete Marsh (Chair), Anne Daw (Vice Chair), Wendy Philips (Treasurer), Emily Pieters, Cllr Angela Argenzio, Brian Holmshaw, Wendy Jenrick-Shu, Vicky Seddon, Alison Norris, Sheila McGregor, Annie Marsh, Karen Escott, Paul Sanderson, Simon Clements, Anne Ashe, Jon Ashe, Kath O'Donovan (minutes).

There were no apologies.

The BBEST team were grateful to receive a vote of thanks for their work to date.

BBEST AGM

Election of Officers and Steering Group

There were no nominations, and the current Chair and Officers were willing to continue in post for the next period, but will look for replacements to take over Phase 2 - see below.

Membership of Steering Group will also continue as currently.

BBEST Financial report

BBEST runs on a shoestring, but has enough resources to move through to Phase 2. BBEST is grateful for the support of local councillors in its bid to the Ward Pot for the Zoom subscription which has made this meeting possible in the current format.

Annual report

PM noted that the AGM had been delayed from 2020, partly by problems associated with the Covid lockdown and partly due to developments in the process which made this an appropriate point to announce progress with the Plan.

The process had been inclusive and involving until it came to the External Examination, at which point the draft Plan was handed over to the Examiner for comment and changes, with which BBEST was obliged to comply. Some policies were lost in the process, some because of the split in legislation between spatial planning and transport planning, which meant that policies in relation, for example, to the A57 had been lost. A move towards centralisation at a national level has also had an impact on the Local Plan, a move which is contested by at least some local Councillors. A further issue has been the lack of a local plan for Sheffield, and BBEST hope that some deleted policies can be reflected as the local plan develops.

The outcome is nevertheless satisfactory, the Plan has been agreed by the Council and will be published on their web pages. The Design Guide, whilst less powerful than we had hoped, will influence decisions and will be linked from the BBEST web pages along with a Vision Statement.

A question was raised about publicity in the run up to the Referendum on May 6th and several suggestions were made, including posters on notice boards, circulation on local email lists, inclusion in circulations by political parties.

Concern was expressed that, without a Sheffield wide plan until 2026, issues of climate change in relation to planning will be delayed.

BBEST Phase 2

BBEST now has 5 years to review how its policies have been implemented by the SCC Planning Department, a process which is essentially a retrospective review each year. The Chair clarified that it is not the role of BBEST to consider individual planning applications, but rather the implementation of the policies in the BBEST Plan. There was some discussion about local understanding about this and Steering Group will address how to make this clearer.

The following is an extract from the paper: **BBEST Phase 2 - 2021**, prepared for the meeting by the Chair, which proposes a pattern for Phase 2 activities.

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.

The first workshop will be held In April 2021 at which BBEST and Development Management, who have been very positive about working with BBEST, will discuss the operation of the Plan and the role of the Design Guide.

In the light of discussion about reaction to a number of local planning applications, BBEST will review how it can best communicate the operation and outcomes of the Plan with residents.