

Neighbourhood Plan

GPC Resolution – 29th April 2014

Introduction

The Localism Bill enables rural communities to influence the future of their environments by granting statutory powers to Parish Councils. One is the authority to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, where subject to compliance with overarching legislation, development plan policy, central government directives, a local referendum majority and final approval to adopt, its policies will become material in future planning decisions.

The Batheaston Vision Plan survey, representing the views of 59% of all Batheaston residents, returned an 81% support for the promotion of the '*garden high street*' or the '*Stambridge area*' as a village centre. Such expression by residents should not be undervalued and a Neighbourhood Plan for Batheaston, to have the best chance of majority support in a referendum and of eventual adoption, should not only reflect this view but should be progressed with access to appropriate skills and professional expertise.

The GPC resolves to

A – INVITE THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

- (i) In preparation for a full Parish Council meeting, to meet the Chairmen of Bathampton and Bathford Parish Councils to discuss protection of the meadows and seek inclusion of land in those Meadows in a Neighbourhood Plan;
- (ii) To drive forward the transfer to the Batheaston Council of the toilet block and car park.

B – REQUEST THE CLERK

- (iii) In preparation for a full Parish Council meeting, to draw up a short list of 3 consultancies with proven experience in drafting and progressing Neighbourhood Plans;
- (iv) To submit to the Council a note on the grants which may be available to help cover the costs of preparing the Neighbourhood Plan.

C – REQUEST THE PLACE-MAKING COMMITTEE

- (v) In preparation for a full Parish Council meeting, to interview the consultancies and select for Council approval that to be charged with preparation and progressing the Neighbourhood Plan;
- (vi) In preparation for a full Parish Council meeting, to prepare for approval, a Project Initiation document suitable for Village wide distribution, to cover the scope, the preparation, the consultation, the processes and other actions as necessary for a Neighbourhood Plan;
- (vii) To approve applications for the grants which may be available.