

BEWDLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan Report - June 2020

Update from the Group Leader Cllr Rod Stanczyszyn

This report lists the sequence of events which have occurred to progress the BNP since the decision taken, by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, to undertake a professional review of the NP policies by the consultants, Avon Planning Services.

- 20th Jan meeting held with Neil Pearce, APS, to discuss his comments for the deletion of a small number of policies which he considered were not relevant to 'land use'. When asked for his opinion whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment was needed, his answer was non committal. When asked about quoting to prepare an SEA, he replied between £4,000 to £6000.
- 24th Jan confirmation received from J. Blest, Locality, "As you qualify for technical support (you are including Design codes in your plan) you can apply for the free technical support package SEA."
- 3rd Feb application made for Technical Support.
- 14th Feb email received from Helen Smith, WF Planning Policy, following my request for the statutory letter necessary to start the process. "Thank you for your email. We will of course put a letter together to confirm in writing that an SEA screening assessment is required on the draft NP at this stage to determine whether a full SEA/SA is required. I have asked Helen Checketts to lead on this and she will prepare the letter for you."
- 2nd March meeting held with Helen Checketts to discuss the screening assessment and her comments on the NP policy changes.

- 14th Mar telephone conversation with consultant (AECOM) appointed by Locality questioning the details for the Technical Support application.
- 16th Mar email from consultant for Locality asking for previous reports made regarding SEA screening. "Could you please forward me the SEA Report that was produced previously for the Neighbourhood Plan? If you also have any associated documents or appendices to this report (such as a scoping report), please also send these over to me.
- 20th Mar email received from HC, "I have attached a letter regarding the SEA screening, I hope that this is what you require. We suggest that you have an SEA screening carried out to establish if a full SEA is needed. Last time the findings were that one was."
- 6 April email received from consultant, "We will complete your diagnostic and forward it to Locality recommending SEA technical support. There is currently a delay with applications for technical support being approved, but you should hear from them in a few weeks."
- 21st Apr email received from a different AECOM office and a different consultant, "The application will be submitted to MHCLG for review, and I expect Locality will be in touch with you directly in due course to let you know the outcome. This will detail the next steps, and you'll be allocated a lead consultant in AECOM who will progress with the SEA Screening Opinion on your behalf. Whilst this might be myself, it is more likely to be one of my fellow colleagues. They will then be your main point of contact, moving forward."
- 27th Apr email received from Locality with approval, "Thank you for applying to the Neighbourhood Planning programme on behalf of Bewdley Town Council. We have reviewed your application for Technical Support and we are pleased to confirm that your application has been approved."
- 4th May email from AECOM office number 3 and a 3rd consultant, "As you will be aware, you have been approved for a MHCLG/Locality technical support package for your Neighbourhood Plan. This will be to prepare the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion. I will be leading the package, and we look forward to working with you.

I have been liaising with my colleague Ryan (Putt), and as such am fully up to speed. We will therefore go ahead and prepare the SEA Screening Report as soon as possible.

On this basis, would you be able to send through the draft of the Neighbourhood Plan which it would be best to base the screening opinion on?

- 19th May Screening opinion received and sent to NPCSG members for comments and HC for appraisal.
- 5th June email from HC, "Just to let you know that I am looking at the Bewdley NP as we discussed to see if there could be tweaks to differentiate between policy and aspiration. I will send any suggestions to you. Then a clean copy could be sent to the three statutory authorities with the SEA screening."
- 18th June email from HC, "Sorry but my version of the draft Neighbourhood Plan still has all of the comments down the side. Once I receive a copy with no comments I will send to the three statutory bodies. Could you also please also confirm the dates of the Neighbourhood Plan, will it be dated until 2036?"
- I have managed to extract the plan so I am sending it back to you to check that I have pulled out the correct one. I do not know if this is any help, what size and how many do you want this printed and I will see if someone can do it."
- 19th June request made to commercial company, Crayon Juice, for quote to delete tracking marks from the NP document and replace map for policy PC4.
- 24th June email received from CJ, "No problem. File attached." This company made no charge for this work.
- 26th June telephone call to HC to ask for confirmation that there are no more obstacles to the SEA screening process. Email returned with statement that the screening opinion is to sent to Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England w/c 29th June, "Many thanks for sending the document, yes it is a version with no comments at the side so it will be sent to the three statutory bodies either today or the beginning of next week. I will keep you informed."

R. Stanczyszyn, 26/06/20.