

# Botus Fleming Neighbourhood Development Plan

Update for Parish Council 30 June 2017

From the outset we have taken the view that the NDP process is an important tool in the delivery of the intended outcomes of the Localism Act, in particular the promotion of civic engagement, community empowerment and the development of sustainable communities. We took the view that, in this regard, the process of producing the plan was just as important as the plan itself, hence our mission statement:

“To promote a stronger and closer community by empowering individuals and families living in and around Botus Fleming and Hatt to have a say in the future development of the area.”

Our first, and possibly greatest, challenge was to develop a strategy of engagement that would enable parishioners to have the confidence to express views on matters that were highly specialised. We produced this engagement strategy last year and in summary it requires us to inform residents about the nature of the task and the legislation underpinning it, the imperatives arising from this legislation and the limitations of the project and the progress made and the next steps. Informing has been a continuing function of the committee and to date we have produced and delivered six publications to each address in the parish, have used our email mailing list to disseminate information and have created and publicised a website. We have also held several consultation events. The aim of the two events in December and January was to identify a vision for the future of the parish and we did not restrict comments to planning matters. This broad and diverse involvement of citizens was used to create a collective vision for the future. The analysis of all information received has been rigorous. Responses to our consultations and emails received have been dissected to identify the core points and these were collated. This enabled us to identify the issues that attracted the greatest number of comments and gave us the information we needed to create the residents' Vision Statement. The most commonly cited issue in the feedback was the recreation field and we are continuing to look at ways of securing its future.

Having started the engagement process we then began looking at the other areas where evidence was required. To date we have been gathering information on:

- Landscape,
- Heritage,
- Environment,
- Demographics
- Housing
- Planning applications since 2012
- Traffic and transport
- Businesses

- Public Green Spaces

Some of this evidence was presented at our third consultation event and further views were sought about how the vision might be realised.

Our next steps will be to formulate our policies. Our policies will reconcile the requirements of the CLP and NPPF with the residents' vision for the parish. We will be relying on the support of a Planning Consultant to achieve this.

**Planning consultant.** We have approached three prospective consultants. The first was experienced in NDPs but was very expensive and we did not feel that we had sufficient funds to cover enough days to be useful. The second declined to make a bid for the work as he admitted that we could not afford him. At that stage I had a meeting with the Planning Lead for Tamar Valley AONB who advised me of a RTPI run "planning aid" service. Unfortunately we could not identify anyone locally to provide this service. I then became aware that an old school friend of my son had recently taken up a position with a planning practice in Plymouth and informed the NDP committee. The NDP committee requested that I ask him if he wished to express an interest and he was subsequently interviewed by Denis Morgan, Finlay Linford and Malcolm Fletcher. Following the meeting he submitted a report outlining how he perceived his role and offered discounted terms as he was keen to have experience with NDPs. The NDP committee then agreed unanimously to accept his offer. Having initially facilitated the introduction I recused myself from the entire process as he had connections with my family. Louis Dulling has already made a significant impact and we anticipate that he will be instrumental in helping us complete our plan this year.