
Notes from Berinsfield Garden Village Association

Date: Tuesday 30 March 2021

Time: 6pm

Venue: Zoom

Present:

Annette Loveland (Clerk for Berinsfield Parish Council)

Teresa Sykes (Vicar)

Ann Mitchell (Social prescriber)

Linda Town (Manager of the Library)

Stephen Perkins (Football Club)

Phil Bridge (Vice Chair Berinsfield PC)

Stuart Scott-Ely (Chair of Berinsfield PC)

Ian Bunyon (Berinsfield Community Association)

Sophie Charter (Head of Abbey Woods Academy)

Caroline Wade (Manager BIVC and group Chair)

Laura Harte (Manager of The Berin Centre)

Jackie Logan (Communities Manager Soha)

Apologies:

Amanda Cofek (Riverside Counselling)

Jo Staples (Dorchester St Birinus Primary School)

Agenda Items

1. **DRAFT Constitution**

JL had drafted a group constitution to include the aims of the group agreed at the last meeting. SE had some small amends which he will send to JL. Otherwise the group were happy with it.

SE suggested the group could rename to Berinsfield Garden Village Association. The group should not be too formal and will ensure that it is transparent and that all communication is accessible to residents e.g. coffee mornings, clubs and events, social media and PC website. CW said she wanted the meetings to have the same format as the ones she previously organised as a networking lunch. CW has agreed to Chair the meetings and group members will rotate the note taking. LH offered to take notes for the next meeting.

2. **Future working together and COVID recovery**

CW said that the village events calendar will be up and running after Easter. This will enable everyone in the village to see what is happening and ensure no overlaps of events bookings and activities. People can contact BIVC to add their event or activity to the calendar.

CW has started to look at booking the events for when the Covid restrictions are lifted.

Hatwell's fair had been booked for the beginning of July. CW is also putting together the timetable for the 'Summer of Fun' starting in May and running until August. All events and activities will be subject to government guidelines.

IB said that the BCA plan to start reopening from 16 April with limited opening hours: Fridays 5-11pm, Sat 3-11pm, Sun 2-9pm

IB said they had been looking at marquee hire but they were too expensive. SE said the parish council have marquees they could lend to the BCA.

AM said the meetings were useful in her position as Social Prescriber for Berinsfield based at the Health Centre. GP's and District Nurses referred into the service. Information was important for AM to share with her clients.

LT told the group that the library will be opening on 13 April. There would be a limited number of 7 people in the library at a time. All returned books would be quarantined for 72 hours before being put back on the shelves.

LH said The Berin Centre would be starting to open up groups again in the second week of the Easter holidays. This would be for Growing Minds and Stay and Play sessions. LH to email CW with the days for these groups.

SE mentioned that the Day Centre would probably be re-opening in July date TBC.

3. **Update on the Garden Village and SODC plans for regeneration**

SE told the meeting that the following councillors would be leading on the regeneration project for Berinsfield:

Maggie Filipova-Rivers (Lib Dem) Cabinet member for community services, and deputy leader, Ward Goring (statutory deputy leader shared alternate months with Robin Bennett)

Robin Bennett (Green) Cabinet member for economic development and regeneration, and deputy leader, Ward Berinsfield

SODC Officers leading on the Garden Village project are:

Suzanne Malcom, Acting Deputy Chief Executive for Place, Mary Beth Harasz Garden, Communities Manager for SODC.

Phil said that he took MF-R on a tour of Berinsfield recently.

The next SODC steering group meeting would be on 12 or 13 May. SE, PB and JL will attend.

PB said he had put together a list of ideas for funding applications that have already been raised as priorities in previous consultation. He hoped that residents would add to these ideas for future applications. A questionnaire was attached to the email invites for this meeting, but had low return. PB to put some wording together to explain why people were being asked to fill in the questionnaire for clarity. Ideas would need to justify that they would benefit the residents of the village.

LH suggested that a post could be put out on social media, asking residents for their top three priorities. Group agreed.

4. **Communication**

AL confirmed she will set up an area on the Parish Council website for the group to upload information, such as meeting dates, agenda's and minutes.

The Parish Council will upload all statutory information regarding the Garden Village and SODC regeneration onto their own section of the website, but the areas can redirect information to each other when necessary.

PB mentioned that the group has a strap line as mentioned in the previous meeting.

The group mentioned words like, community, for everyone, together should be used within the strap line, although agreed it should be 'snappy and short'. Any ideas please forward to CW at BIVC as soon as possible.

5. **AOB**

SE asked SC if SODC had been in touch with the academy regarding the school. As there had always been the concept that there would be a new primary school on the new build part of the Berinsfield development, which would mean freeing up the old site for redevelopment. SC said she had not had any communication and would check with the trust to see if there had been any dialogue.

LT asked if there were still plans for a community hub, as this had been mentioned for many years. A lot of the buildings which housed charities and the library had not wanted to spend on improving their buildings or looking for new premises, as this was always being promised every time SODC consulted with the village. But as not delivered it meant that many of the buildings were no longer fit for purpose, with still no indication of when a community hub would come along.

SE responded that it was still in the Local Plan, although wording had changed, which could also indicate that the old buildings could be upgraded in some way, nothing specific. This is not what Berinsfield agreed to when SODC did the last consultation. Although a new community hub is out of reach for the charities in Berinsfield to run, as they would not be able to afford running costs and overheads. So a funding agreement would be needed regarding who would be paying for the running.

TS mentioned that the leisure centre should be included in the meeting. Since COVID and the leisure centre closing it seems that no one has any contact numbers or emails for the manager. PB to try and found out.

JL asked SE if he would be looking at starting the Neighbourhood Plan again. SE said he had been contacted by MP John Howell to restart this, using the easy version of NP. A NP would mean that there would be a referendum and that residents would be able to vote on it. Also the village would get Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) of 25%, they would only get 15% without a NP. A Neighbourhood Development Order can also be considered and will also mean receiving 25% CIL.

6. **NEXT MEETING Tuesday 11 May @ 6pm Zoom**

Topic: Berinsfield Garden Village Association
Time: May 11, 2021 06:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://soha-co-uk.zoom.us/j/98869618417?pwd=SGhPV1RXcWpPaUtRK1BIM3NnbzNxQT09>

Meeting ID: 988 6961 8417

Passcode: 258101