

# Ledbury NDP Steering Group (SG) agenda and actions

Members: Cllr Phillip Howells (PH); Nicola Forde (NF); Ann Lumb (AL)

Consultants: Bill Bloxsome (BB); Carly Tinkler (CT) Samantha Banks, Herefordshire Council (SB); WP = Working Party

Office: Angie Price (the Clerk, AP)

Action colour code: **Red = still to do**

<p><b>Meeting 16 – Friday 22nd January 2021</b>  <b>Present: PH; NF; AL; BB</b></p>	
<p><b>1. Green Infrastructure Study</b>          SG discussed how to reflect green infrastructure - areas we don't want developed and in so doing, guide the next Core Strategy and next NDP.          PH explained that we had been thinking of this as the focus of a separate topic paper and asked: do we have a separate document on this, a conceptual plan, or is it part of the green infrastructure paper BB is already working on? BB to consider conceptual part and suggested perhaps covering as appendix in current topic guide.          BB's approach would not have areas in the plan designated 'green space'. Rather, woodlands, open spaces, recreation fields, SSSIs etc. should be drawn together as different designations, fitting into an overall network. BB has already identified 'zones' and wants to compare them with CT's work to see if they are correct; if not, why not.          A new designation, Local Green Space, could be used for small spaces such as wild daffodil sites. These do not have to have public access, but have to have some 'value' e.g. biodiversity, heritage/cultural, recreation/amenity. We can consult the Climate Change group and Herefordshire Wildlife Trust on such spaces.</p>	<p><b>BB</b></p>
<p><b>2. Specific Locations Near Town</b></p> <p>a. <u>Masefield Meadow</u>          This is private land near Tesco, which is not visible, but could be a 'green corridor'. BB said we would need evidence as to how this site is special to the community. It may not be designated special, but any future development might require a net gain in biodiversity, not necessarily on site.          Agreed need to consult on the Masefield Meadow with the owner.</p> <p>b. <u>Green buffer/fields north of Leadon Way (approx. from near Gloucester roundabout towards Full Pitcher.</u>          This narrow strip was on the old UDP and needs to be maintained as green space valued by local people. BB suggested it could be designated open space. He also asked if this could include a children's playground as there is a shortage of this amenity on the south side of the town. Proposal would involve LTC buying part of the land.          AL suggested that this strip of land might also be a more appropriate location for Haygrove community garden than that proposed off Hereford Road.</p>	<p><b>PH</b></p>

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<p>NF agreed to produce an up-to-date map of sites to be preserved as open space, including (b) above.</p>	<p>NF</p>
<p><b>3. Points Raised at WP Meeting (5<sup>th</sup> January)</b>              Eight points on green infrastructure were raised by Liz Harvey and SG at recent meetings. Discussed with BB as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <u>Need to extend LSC2 towards Wellington Heath</u> to include wetlands etc. to slow water flow and provide northern green gap. BB advised adding these measures to LEZ1, because that would give more protection. Asked about changing the colour used on the map for better clarity, BB said that he could not change the map format. We would need to ask Hoople or HC. SG agreed that all this area should be outside the settlement boundary.</li> <li>ii. <u>Need for safe, off-road access to allotments</u> (not in parish). PH explained aspiration for reinstated canal towpath for active transport between Staplow and Dymock. This is also supported in the Dymock NDP. BB said this could be proposed, but only if you can fund and deliver it. Could this go in the conceptual plan? HC Core Strategy protects the route of the canal and we would wish to protect the route including a cycling/walking footpath.</li> <li>iii. <u>Parkway</u> – need for green buffer between here and Ledbury and to prevent sprawl.              BB pointed out that Core Strategy policy RA3 covers land outside settlement boundaries, classifying it as open countryside and this would include Parkway (which is not classified as a settlement). There is therefore no need to treat Parkway differently in the NDP. It may benefit from the proposed enhancement zone by Bovis and green corridor to the south and east of Ledbury.              PH added that improving the footpath between the town and Parkway would be beneficial. BB asked: is funding for this committed and the footpath therefore deliverable? The land is part of the highway. This probably needs to go in an appendix along with other cycle/walking pathways as aspirations. PH to provide BB with a list of 4 main footpaths his group are looking at.</li> <li>iv. <u>Need to link the green infrastructure study to all footpaths including woodland/hill paths</u>. Not specifically discussed, except as in (ii) and (iii) above.</li> <li>v. <u>Ensuring that Frith and Conegree Woods are kept as Ledbury amenities</u>. This is covered in existing policy NE4.1 and in policies at 6.3 and 8.3 of BB’s Design Guide. BB will look at which issues to keep in the Design Guide. NF to ask</li> </ul>	<p>BB/NF?</p> <p>PH</p> <p>BB</p>

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<p>Paul Neep (again) and Paul Kinnaird for their views on the Design Guide.</p> <p>vi. <u>Green Spaces in, or on edge of Ledbury</u>. Various sites were discussed. NF to produce comprehensive up-to-date map of these sites (as covered in 2(b) above).</p> <p>vii. <u>Proposal for Communal Garden at Underdown</u>. BB said he would not put this proposal in the NDP, because he is proposing that it should be within a new Local Strategic Corridor LSC5 and registered parkland. The Haygrove proposal for a communal garden south of Hereford Road is similarly in a local strategic corridor</p> <p>viii. <u>Bovis Site</u>. This is currently inside the settlement boundary and BB will look at it. PH pointed out that views near a small group of trees and in the surroundings to Dymock Road could indicate a green buffer between this area and Parkway. BB said that linking the uplands of the Malverns with the transition area to the lowlands of the Leadon Valley will be important in the conceptual part of the green infrastructure study.</p>	<p>NF</p> <p>BB</p>
<p><b>4. General Issues</b></p> <p><u>BB's work</u> on Topic Paper 3 and the conceptual part overlaps with CT's work. BB needs information from CT as soon as possible to check HC's assessments and to drill down below these levels. BB will also cover two other sensitive areas: the Dymock Road site and Gladman's site by Walls Camp. BB to come back to us about extra funding for green infrastructure work.</p> <p><u>Appendices</u>. BB suggested that things the Council would like to see happen, but which fall outside the scope of the current NDP should be included in an appendix. This would include things there is currently no funding for, like new footpaths. He also said that the Examiner's Report should be an appendix, as it underpins the identification of the land east and south of the bypass as sensitive, and this should be referenced in the main report.</p> <p><u>CT's work</u>: Final completed draft paper required by mid-February (Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> February latest). Current report draft required about 2 days before meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January to review and understand additional information/views needed.</p>	
<p><b>5. Next SG Meetings</b></p> <p>Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 3:00pm – with BB to discuss Issues and Options paper</p> <p>Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> January 10:30am – SG</p> <p>Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> January 3:00pm with CT</p>	