

Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

PUBLIC MEETING

Members of the public are encouraged and welcome to attend

A minimum of 7 members with a quorum of 4 (one town councillor and one resident to be present within the quorum)

Agenda

Meeting to be held on Thursday 28th August 2014 at 6.30pm

Town Hall

1. Members Present
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Run through previous actions and approval of the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group held on 25 July 2014
5. Budget breakdown
6. Project health check – grant extension see email attached from CDF dated 6th August 2014, (attached)
7. User group consultation planning
8. Theme group signup
9. Any other business
10. Next Meeting Date – Thursday 4th September 2014 (Town Hall)

Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Emma Perry** <Emma.Perry@cdf.org.uk>

Date: Wed, Aug 6, 2014 at 4:05 PM

Subject: Your Neighbourhood Planning Grant – Important information about the grant end date– Please Read

To: "townclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.com" <townclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.com>

Dear Project,

As I hope you are aware, the Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning grants programme will be coming to an end soon. All grants must be spent by the agreed project end date and the final deadline for the programme is 31 December 2014. Any funding that has not been spent by this date will need to be returned via CDF to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Set out below are some suggestions for helping you to maximise the impact of your grant, and helping us to help you to make the most of the time remaining available within the current programme.

1. Complete your quarterly monitoring promptly and make sure that you ask consultants and other suppliers to submit their invoices to you on a timely basis for the work they have done
2. If you complete your planned activities ahead of the grant end date, prepare and submit your end of grant report as soon as you can. This will ensure that you receive the balancing payment (up to 10% of the total grant awarded) in good time
3. Check your project plan, and identify what activities within the grant you can realistically complete in the next five months. Compare this to your grant application. If the overall plan is taking you longer than expected to prepare, and some activities are no longer possible in the next five months, you can apply to us to reallocate the grant to other neighbourhood planning. You can request this by completing a grant variation request form, which can be requested from CDF, contact details below.
4. If having done that, you expect that you will have some underspend at 31 December, please contact the team at CDF, so that we can identify any opportunities to reallocate surplus funding to other groups who have not yet received a grant.

For example, if you applied for funding for the final stages of the plan, such as its' revision post consultation or printing costs, but you currently need some technical support with earlier work such as site allocations, or to turn the priorities from your consultation into planning policies for inclusion in the draft plan. We are typically able to make a decision on each request within a week. You must not change the use of the grant until your request has been approved. If you want further advice, please contact the telephone advice service provided by Locality on 0300 020 1864, Mon-Fri 9.30am - 12.30pm and one of the neighbourhood planning team will be pleased to follow up.

Additionally, for your information a new support programme is likely to be available from April 2015, and it may be possible for areas to submit grant applications just prior to that date. Details of the future support for neighbourhood planning are being worked up by DCLG and further details should be made available later in the year.

Kind Regards,

Geraldine Page

Programme Manager, CDF

Our.place@CDF.org <<mailto:Our.place@CDF.org>>

02078331772 press 1 for Programmes

Stonehouse Neighbourhood Plan Working Group



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Our Ref: ER/NB/017265/14

14 JUL 2014

Dear Neil

Thank you for your letter of 17 June to the Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP about the Stroud Local Plan. I have been asked to reply as the matter falls within my ministerial responsibility. I was pleased to have the opportunity to comment publicly on the issues you raised regarding planning in Stroud Valleys and Vale during the Westminster Hall debate on 14 May. Again, I must make clear that my ministerial role in the planning system means that I cannot comment on Stroud's Local Plan specifically as it is currently at examination before an independent inspector. Nonetheless I hope the following general comments are useful.

I share your frustration at delays in plan-making. Local authorities who fail to get Local Plans in place in a timely fashion fail to provide their communities with valuable clarity as to what development is appropriate and where. I am very aware of the particular planning challenges in Stroud from the Westminster Hall debate and my earlier visit on 23 April. I also understand that in July 2013, before the plan was submitted for examination, the Planning Inspectorate visited Stroud District Council to advise them on the robustness of their approach. I very much hope that the Council will now respond constructively to the Inspector's comments and enable the examination to move forward.

I welcome this opportunity to reiterate the value of neighbourhood plans and the considerable interest in neighbourhood planning in your constituency. I appreciate that there may be challenges in taking forward a neighbourhood plan in the absence of an adopted Local Plan, but it is entirely possible to do so and many areas are doing exactly that. As I said in the debate, if successful at examination and referendum, a neighbourhood plan will become part of the statutory development plan for that area. Neighbourhood plans that are made in this way will, alongside an area's Local Plan, set the framework in which decisions on particular applications are taken. This is a clear example of this Government's commitment to return power in planning to local communities wherever possible. I would therefore encourage all neighbourhood planning groups in your constituency to develop their Plans as quickly as they are able.

Nick Boles

Neil

NICK BOLES MP