

BROMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Neighbourhood Plan Review

Monday 13 October 2025
Bromham Village Hall **at 6:15pm**

AGENDA

1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
3.	Notes of Last Meeting: 1 September 2025	Previously Circulated & attached
4.	National and Local Planning Context: (a) Bedford Borough Local Plan 2040	
5.	Made Neighbourhood Plan: Review (a) Green Infrastructure Plan Update (b) Sports & Leisure Assessment Update	
6.	New Development Update	
	(a) Old Stable Yard	
	(b) Land South of Northampton Road	
7.	Neighbourhood Plan Review Document Format	
8.	Project Plan	
9.	Date of Next Meeting	

Julie Betts, Clerk, 6 October 2025

BROMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP** HELD ON TUESDAY 1 September 2025 AT BROMHAM VILLAGE HALL

Attendees: John Bennett (Chair)
Sian Woodfine
Trevor Roff
Keith Smith

Parish Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer: Julie Betts

Public: There were no members of the public in attendance

		Action
37/23	Apologies for Absence	
	There were no apologies received.	Note
38/23	Declarations of Interest	
	Declarations were as previously recorded in the minutes.	Note
39/23	Notes of Meeting Held on 7 May 2025	
	The meeting considered the draft notes of the meeting held on 7 May 2025. RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting held on 7 May 2025 be approved. <i>(Proposed by: Trevor Roff, Seconded by: Sian Woodfine, All in favour)</i>	Note PC
40/23	National and Local Planning Context	
	(a) Bedford Borough Council Local Plan 2040	
	The planning Inspector recommended the Local Plan 2040 was withdrawn if not he would deem unsound. A new plan had to be prepared from scratch. New plan proposed to 2046 – 15 year life once fully adopted. Suggesting not adopted to 2031. Bedford Borough Council have to start with new evidence base so will take 4 years. The decision was deferred until 8 October 2025 meeting. So technically plan had not been withdrawn.	Note
	(b) Government Housing Targets	
	It was predicted that the 1.5m target that Labour Government had set, would miss by a long way. Planning and infrastructure bill was going through commons at the minute. A number of things in the bill would affect Parish Councils.	

		Planning Officers will have more delegated authorities. To speed up the planning process there would be a new national scheme of delegation. Currently local authorities can set up their own – each Local Authority is different. Government want one scheme. The secondary legislation would be next year so planning officers will have more delegation. Detail not known yet. Government Introducing mandatory training and certification regime for any councillor who wants to sit on a planning committee. Sub-regional planning - Third major development to be introduced proposal Local Authorities will have to combine with other LAs to prepare strategic development plans. No timetable or detail yet. Local plans and policies would still be developed by BBC. Local Authorities will collaborate with other Local Authorities on Strategic Plans. Communities will continue to be able to prepare NHPs for their areas.	Note
	(c)	Funding for Neighbourhood Planning	
		BBC confirmed that CIL money can be used to support Neighbourhood Planning.	Note
41/23	Made Neighbourhood Plan: Review		
	(a)	Green Infrastructure Plan	
		Complete and can go on website.	Note
	(b)	Sports & Leisure Assessment	
		Assessment still not received.	Note
	(c)	Issues & Options Consultation Feedback	
		• Responses 153 compared with Questionnaire 2024 – 369 – 50% less • Age distribution similar • Lowest response rate 18-40 • Most 55 years+ • Heavily agreed Summary can be finalised and put on website. Need to be tidied up.	Note

42/23	New Developments		
	(a)	Old Stable Yard	
		Current position determination date extended for the 5th time – now 19 September 2025 showing significant highways objection (Pedestrian and cyclists Highways & Sustainability). Arrange meeting to update/call understand the problem? Access needs to be agreed across the park.	Note JB
	(b)	Land South of Northampton Road	
		It was disappointing that it was probably that the application of Land South of Northampton Road would be approved. Sian had asked for comfort from the planning officer that if Parish Council agreed to the application Bromham would not get further development. It was thought that if BBC refused the application it would go to appeal and would almost certainly win. Keith Smith asked what was the point of doing a Neighbourhood Plan? The group had spent so much time working on the plan. Because Bedford Borough Council no longer had a Local Plan it would consider any planning application on its merits. It was agreed that the point of carrying on was that Bromham could influence design with the design code and would receive 25% CIL instead of 15%. Workshop impression no standard format for a review of the made plan – don't have to rewrite the whole plan. (John) just add policies and design code. Doesn't involve a complete rewrite. It was agreed that the group should carry on with the review. The NHP expires in June 2026 which would extend our Neighbourhood Plan until the new Local Plan has been agreed. Bromham Parish Council/Bromham Neighbourhood Plan Group need to say whether there is a need for a referendum or not. Inspector makes final decision. Trevor Roff suggested adding a bungalow policy. Future developments would then have to recognise 30% bungalows. It was agreed that Borough highways need to come to the table to discuss. Bromham needs infrastructure improvements. The group felt disappointed but agreed to carry on with the process.	
43/23	Residents' Communication – Update		
	Correspondence – Mr Stockwell –		

	Note - windfall sites policy needs refreshing. Respond to Mr Stockwell. Note Add into NHP Elisabeth Curtis Centre would like to improve their facilities.	
44/23	Project Plan	
45/23	Date of Next Meeting	
	Date of next meeting –Monday 13 October, 2025, 6.15pm Meeting closed at 7.30pm	Note