

Venue	Datchet Parish Council Office
Time	6.00 pm
Attendees	Marjorie Clasper (MC) Alison Crampin (AC) Jane Simpson (JS) Ewan Larcombe (EL) James Lawrence (JL) Jo Stickland (JSt) Sandra Needham (Secretary)
Apologies	Fiona Cryle

1. The purpose of this meeting was to hear from Mr John Slater, who can act as a Project Manager for the Datchet Neighbourhood Plan. Full notes from the meeting were requested from Alison Crampin, so these minutes should be read in conjunction with the AC Report.

2. **Mr Slater introduced himself.** He has been in local government for 34 years, including planning in RBWM so is very familiar with the area. He left the area in 1997 to be City Planning Officer in Portsmouth for eight years.

With the 2012 restructuring he took the opportunity to do something different. He was one of the first tranche of examiners for Neighbourhood Plans, and spent 80% of his time examining the plans. He completed 28 plans, but none with RBWM.

He has been involved with six pre-submission health checks, and giving preparation assistance with compiling Neighbourhood Plans.

3. **What he could bring to Datchet.**

- technical knowledge of the whole process
- knowing what examiners will be looking for
- ensuring the best wording for policies etc
- taking a strategic view by taking a step back to see the whole picture

4. Neighbourhood Plans cannot undermine BLP strategies, which in turn has to be broadly consistent with the national planning policy, for example on the Green Belt.

5. The main question is what you want the Plan to do.

MC commented that basic surveys had been carried out to find out resident priorities, but general remarks such as like the village friendliness.

6. From this point the discussions were varied and informal as the committee explored what Mr Slater could add to the NP process, and Mr Slater sought to determine what Datchet needed from him.

Planning policies in existence to protect the green spaces – could be used to designate specific green spaces around the village (National Planning Policy Framework is essential reading)

Conservation Area – ask what needs to be done to protect it. Can have design policies and affect change of use. Cannot control what shops take over existing shops and cannot control colours.

The Borough is responsible for designations and producing appraisals, but NP can produce landscape assessment and explain why it is special. Use of a professional could be useful here.

The Draft NP is produced, then consultation with residents over six weeks, and draft goes to the Borough for comment. At this stage changes can be made as necessary. After changes the document goes to the Borough to be checked that all documentation is correct before it goes to the Examiner. Even if RBWM hate the plan it will go to the examiner, who may say it meets all the conditions. Only after this can RBWM say if there are elements that must be changed. Once examiner has reported there is 56 day period to issue a Statement of Acceptance and arrange a local referendum (paid for by RBWM).

DNP does not have to take the RBWM allocation of sites as long as the NP does not frustrate or undermine BLP, but the 2006 BLP is the only one actually accepted so work to that one and not the 2017 plan presently emerging.

The NP can have aspirations – Conservation Area and green spaces might be enough for Datchet.

Emerging Borough Plan can be mentioned with a view to how it would affect the centre of the village. Can talk of affordable housing and how that fits with BLP. If Datchet was a village in the country a survey could be carried out to say exactly what they need, but Datchet needs to be looked at within the whole Borough. Can also plan that affordable housing be indistinguishable from the other houses.

May be best to back off of housing, but even if that was the decision the NP could still state what was wanted concerning street views etc. Also possible to protect riverside views, and protect rights of way. Suggest a post office be placed at the poorer end of the village.

Can use a strategic flood risk assessment – take number of houses, note how many not liable to flood, put what you can outside the flood plain and use of flood plain as last resort. Consider flood resistance, with a sequential approach so that sites on the edge of the flood plain are still better than being next to the river.

7. Going Forward.

- Mr Slater encouraged the use of a single author, for example Alison Crampin editing.
- Steering Group cannot do it all but should have overview for topic areas. Sensible for three people to get to know each issue, then capture the community aspirations.
- Parking policy may be an aspiration – maybe land for a new car park.
- Policies come after Topics: Sequence is Topics – What to achieve – Vision – Objectives – Policies.
- Can influence what can be done without planning permission. Can have a policy which says no front porches or allows conservatories etc.
- To collect thoughts it can be useful to write a postcard from Datchet in 2031 to see what you believe it should be.
- Vision – maybe get an expert for this, chapter headings, themes, structure

8. Formal Contract? AC could be point of contact for John Slater.

DATCHET NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP – Wednesday 16th August 2017

Locality gives grants for professional help, and also money for some assessments. May need help with Basic Conditions Statement – policies relating to national and BLP policies. Also Consultation Document (have all items logged).

First check what DNP is trying to achieve related to the plan. Be clear with the public as to what NP can do and what we need from the public. The NP cannot be used to fight the BLP.