



Calne Without Parish Council – October 2024

Neighbourhood Plan Training Budget Request.

1. If the creation of the updated Neighbourhood Plan (NP) goes to plan it will become “made”, i.e. implementable, during Q1 of 2025. This will be just before the Community Governance Review changes take effect in May 2025. Following these changes the NP area will be split amongst seven successor councils (Bremhill, Calne Town, Cherhill, Compton Bassett, Heddington, Hilmarton and Derry Hill and Studley).
2. Clearly, we want the NP to be fully exploited throughout its area and I believe to achieve this some NP training needs to be run for the councillors of all seven successor councils. This is very important as the NP is much more comprehensive than before, for example with the inclusion of Design Guide and Codes, and new policies on many topics. In the first instance it will fall on the statutory consultees, such as the parish councils, to review all planning applications against the NP. Wiltshire Council’s Planning Officers will also do this but with their heavy workload, and having less detailed knowledge of the NP, things may slip through if we don’t highlight them in our comments on the planning applications.
3. The successor councils, except for Calne Town and CWPC, have had very limited, or no, involvement with the creation of the NP and are not familiar with its policies.
4. I propose that we arrange training sessions to educate the councillors on successor councils in how to fully exploit the NP. I think that there should be introductory sessions giving the attendees a basic grounding in the NP, its provisions and policies. More detailed sessions would also be run to go into the next level of detail. These would be aimed at councillors who have an interest at a more detailed level. As well as covering formal responses to planning applications, the training should also cover other aspects, such as how we track the effectiveness of the plan, the joint CIL project list and the expectation that CIL money generated in the NP area should be spent in the NP area.
5. I suggest that these sessions are run in a central location to which councillors from all successor councils are invited.
6. A budgetary estimate of £2,280 has been given by Place Studios but as this topic has not yet been discussed with the NP Steering Group, or Calne Town Council, I suggest some contingency is added and a CIL budget of £3,000 is allocated.
7. I suggest that the training is run after the May 2025 elections so that the new councillors can attend.
8. I propose that we allocated £3,000 from our CIL reserve and transfer it to Calne Town Council when the rest of the remaining CIL money is distributed to successor councils. They would use it to pay for the training for all successor councils.
9. I also propose that we highlight this approach in the 1st November documents that we have committed to send to the successor councils.
10. As mentioned in point 6 these are just my ideas and have not yet been discussed with other key stakeholders. The detail may therefore change, but I would hope that the principle, and budgetary costs, would remain the same.

Cllr Doug Price

Vice Chairman, Calne Without Parish Council

7th Oct 2024