

Appendix A item a

Lorraine Billis
Secretary
Broad Town Community Led Planning Group
broadtownclpg@gmail.com

Ms D Bourne
Parish Clerk
Broad Town Parish Council
Clerk.broadtown@gmail.com

3rd February 2017

Dear Ms Bourne

I have been asked by the Broad Town Community Led Planning Group (CLPG) at its meeting of 16th January 2017 to respond further to your e-mail of 21st November 2016.

The CLPG initial response was sent to you on 3rd December 2016 subject to a correction to your letter that you said, whilst at our meeting of 21st November, that you would make. We would be glad to receive that correction as it has not yet been made.

The paragraphs in your letter are shown below with the CLPG response shown in blue text.

To confirm, the CLPG would be glad to receive from you:
The correction to your letter that you said you would make;
A correction to any inaccurate statements made in your letter.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely
Lorraine Billis
On behalf of Broad Town CLPG

“Dear Community Led Planning Group

At its meeting last Monday the Parish Council raised some concerns about its relationship with the Community Led Planning Group. Indeed, it was stated by Councillor Simon Billis that the Community Led Planning Group was open to all residents of Broad Town but not to Parish Councillors (even though they are also residents).

Councillor Billis corrected his own statement during the November Parish Council meeting therefore you have not referred to the correct statement that he made. The position of the CLPG is that parish councillors who are also residents may attend and speak, with voting on the proviso that parish councillors do not form more than 50 per cent of attendees at a meeting. Minutes of CLPG meetings are available on www.broad-town.co.uk and they show this position very clearly.

The Council has been aware for some time now that members of the Community Led Planning Group have not wished to engage positively with Councillors; continually being negative and setting obstacles which detract from progressing the NEW-V Neighbourhood Plan.

There is no evidence to support the statement made in this paragraph; please supply it if you have any so we can review it and understand what happened.

We note that both Parishioners and Parish Councillors use the CLPG distribution list to reach a wide audience within Broad Town.

All correspondence from the CLPG will only come from the CLPG Gmail account (broadtownclpg@gmail.com), other correspondence, whether from Parishioners or Parish Councillors, reflect their own views and not those of the CLPG.

The Parish Council has continually tried to engage, suggesting meetings, asking for positive feedback, having the Parish Clerk attend one of your meetings; understanding that it is vital to include the whole community when putting together something as important as a Neighbourhood Plan, lasting for many years. The recent very negative behaviour shown by the Community Led Planning Group in connection with the Housing Survey that was carried out at the end of August has meant that the Council now wishes to consider its future collaborations with the Group.

1. Parish Councillors attended the CLPG meeting in February which was a positive meeting with the CLPG offering to support the Housing Survey. Comments on the Housing Survey were collated and forwarded to the Parish Council. The July Parish Council minutes state in respect of the Housing Survey “Members wished for this to be carried out by people within the village rather than asking other members of the NEW-V group to help.” “It was hoped that the Broad Town CLPG would help with this task and so encourage partnership working again.” Despite this no approach to the CLPG was made although the CLPG commitment is included in its minutes that are circulated to parish councillors and posted on its website, and made public in the Broad Town Newsletter.
2. The overall accuracy and tone of this statement is wrong; at least 3 times during September to November 2016 in the Parish Council meetings a member of the public requested that the Parish Council re-establish contact with the CLPG with a view to start working again as a team. These comments were ‘noted’ and rejected outright by the Parish Council.

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So that a positive way forward can be achieved the Parish Council requests two commitments.

1 That the Broad Town Community Led Planning Group publicly support Broad Town Parish Council in its efforts to complete the NEW-V Neighbourhood Plan, including accepting the results of the Housing Survey.

2 That Broad Town Community Led Planning Group desist from making derogatory and negative remarks about the Parish Council and that they also admonish individual members who continue to be disrespectful of the Parish Council.

The two commitments requested were different to those requested by the Chair of the Parish Council at its November meeting. The commitments given were therefore in response to the Chair's request and are also subject to the correction that you said you would make to your letter.

For reference the Parish Council November meetings read: -

“RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the CLPG requesting answers to two questions:

- Does the CLPG commit to the NEW-V process
- Will the CLPG accept the findings of the Housing Survey, and support the Parish Council in this process?

The Clerk should request written statements from the CLPG committee regarding the above questions and for the response to go forward to the Council meeting in December.”

It should be noted that the Parish Council expects these commitments from the Community Led Planning Group in order to move forward in a positive way. The Parish Council, as the Democratically Elected representatives of Broad Town have a duty to its residents and will no longer accept such behaviour towards them from a community group.

The CLPG acts responsibly and in an open and transparent way. Its meetings are open to the public and all documents are available on its web page.

If the Community Led Planning Group wishes to continue to have an input to the NEW-V Neighbourhood Plan please e-mail your positive commitments before 5th December 2016 so that it can be included on the Agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

The two commitments were responded to within the requested time scale.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Bourne

Deborah Bourne
Parish Clerk
Broad Town Parish Council

Tel: 07801 440076”

