

**BOXWELL WITH LEIGHTERTON  
PARISH PLAN  
INITIAL MEETING  
17th October 2023**

An initial meeting to provide an explanation for a Parish Plan was held at 7.00pm on 17th October in St Andrew's Church, Leighterton. It was well attended by 34 village residents.

**Introduction and Explanation**

Colin Alden, the Chairman of the Parish Council (PC) provided an overview of the PC and introduced the members of the PC; he advised that it was voluntary and anyone would be welcome to join. He clarified that the PC was separate to the Parish Parochial Council (PCC) and the Amenities Committee (AC).

Robert Bryant Pearson provided an overview of the role of the PCC, including reference to the cemetery, which is under the auspices of the CoE as the 'burying authority' although he added that anyone being buried there does not have to be Christian.

Wendy Hogg provided a brief description of the AC, referring to the fact it's primary focus is the Park and Playground.

Simon Gale introduced the concept of the Parish Plan or Community Led Plan (the Plan) - both names are interchangeable. Effectively, a Plan is applied to everything within the Parish or community. He referred to the BwL Appraisal undertaken in 2000 but this did not develop into a Plan.

A Plan falls into 3 categories:

(a) A Community Design Statement which refers to the built environment. (b) A Parish Plan sets out a vision for how the community would like their village/community to develop over the course of the next 5 to 10 years. It covers social, built and environmental aspects and may include sections on Emergency Plans and Green Planning.

(c) A Neighbourhood Development Plan, which takes up to 3 ½ years to produce at a cost of £20,000.

If everyone pulls together, then the Plan can be used as evidence in the event a Neighbourhood Plan is wanted. He emphasised that a Plan has to be evidence based and include local needs and community spirit, notably

- A shared vision
- Actions
- Key features/inclusive actions
- A Green plan (probably necessary as oil is phased out in the country)
- An Emergency Plan

It was stressed that the Plan is not a PC document, it is a Community document which has to be accepted by the CDC. However, it does provide the PC with direction and focus.

The Plan should include all aspects of the Parish and community including the Church, Park, and Pub. However, as an example of what should not be included in the Plan - potholes!. This is the responsibility of the GCC Highways Agency, who should be contacted directly. However, the PC can refer certain matters, eg. speed limit through the village.

In order to progress, everyone will be required to set out their ideas, including whether things remain the same or are changed. The attendees agreed that a Questionnaire would prove helpful to initiate proceedings, as a result of which Colin Alden asked people to provide their names and contact details so that this could be accomplished legally.

The Questionnaire is being pulled together post the meeting and a link will be sent to all those who provided their email contact details. Paper copies will also be made available upon request.

### Questions

1. The Baptist Church and responsibility. It was explained that the Baptist Church is a Methodist Church and had primarily been used by the Clark family.
2. Poole Farm Development - the Application for outline planning permission was posted on the CDC site this week and includes plans, drawings and a brief description. In essence - 1 house on each of the barn 'footprints', restoration of Poole Farmhouse (which is listed) and the Piggery. Deadline by which comments should be received by CDC is **9th November**.
3. Jackie Batten noted, as a Governor of the school, that there had been no mention of Leighterton Primary. Colin Alden explained that despite numerous attempts, there was never any response following various approaches. The same applies to contact from the PCC or church.
4. Someone asked about the population of the village, which it is believed is around 230.
5. Robert Bryant Pearson referred to an earlier Emergency Plan, in which the church would be a place of shelter. However, there are no facilities and it was suggested that the school should be an alternative location in the event of a disaster. It was concluded that they should be approached about this.
6. The PC was asked if it had any news about the recently closed pub, as there was concern it could be converted into a house. Simon Gale was delighted to be able to say that the team from the Holford Arms would be assuming management for the Royal Oak in early November.

7. Martin Weaver recommended another meeting, which was agreed and the date set for 1st November.

#### Next Steps

1. Where not already done so, provide contact details to Colin Alden.
2. A key reliance based Questionnaire to be posted online or printed versions provided if necessary.
3. Email of the PC to be distributed to the village as a 'hub' for news/progress on the Plan [enquiries@boxwellwithleightertonpc.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@boxwellwithleightertonpc.co.uk)

Parish Plans approved for other parishes within Gloucestershire will be posted on the site.

4. The importance of the farming community could not be overemphasized and although Clark's and Bennetts Farms were represented, Whitewater had not been able to attend but sent their apologies. Tara Best offered to write something about farming in and around Leighterton and the part it plays in the community and environment.
5. Create a 'Leighterton through the Years' document. Cindy Beale was suggested as the best person to approach in the first instance.
6. Return to a follow up meeting on **1st November 2023 at 7.00pm in the church.**