

funding is directed), initially Greg Clark, now Sajid Javid since recent change of leadership in Government. No formal response yet.

Can now only await an outcome with frequent prompts to MPs. Outline application outcome deadline is end July; if decision is reversed, then a full bid must be submitted by end October (possibility of an extension if circumstances warrant it).

This will raise several issues for BHPN

- Technical bid preparation costs, how to fund possible these non-recoverable costs – bid team to attempt to cost this. Discussed a few options - additional contributions from parishes, S137, per capita sum from each benefitting parish? **BN/GL/A**
- Reduce liability for BHPN (see item 4 above) - obtain some legal protection. **M**
- PR costs, to encourage good buy-in from the area to guarantee returns for any NGA broadband supplier, BT is known to use its PR resources to divert interest from alternate options.
- If the bid does proceed and is successful, how to fund project cash flow, ERDF funding is retrospective, probable 6 month cash flow back fill,, plus procurement and servicing costs through EDDC.

Of note, Connecting Devon & Somerset has just put out an ITT for response by Aug 12 for potential suppliers, a 3-4 yr programme if completed, whereas Gigaclear (now operating in the area) could halve that time frame.

6 AOB and date of next meeting

- cf FGW opportunity for funding (cf Mins last meeting)
- Date of next meeting tba following any outcome on the ERDF bid, possible dates to be canvassed alongside the MP mtg call. **CB**
- CB to circulate contact list for all Steering Group members to complete. **CB**

Blackdown Hills
Parish Network
Steering Group

MINUTES BHPN STEERING GROUP

Culm Pyne Barton Wednesday July 20th 2016 at 14.30

Attendance:

Heather Stallard	Chair, Hemyock PC, BHBA, AONB Management Gp
Catherine Bass	Co-ordinator, Website
Graham Long	Uptontery PC, AONB Management Gp, Communications
Ken Pearson	Stockland Parish Clerk, BHPN T, T& H
Lisa Turner	AONB Planning officer & BHPN Planning
Jocelyn Pritchard	Hemyock PC & AONB Management Group
Mike Bell	Membury PC
Bob Nelson re ERDF application item	

Apologies:

Bruce Payne	AONB Management Gp, Natural Futures
Alison Weekes	Clayhidon PC
Adrian McArdle re ERDF application	

1. Minutes of meeting 7 June 2016 were agreed

No matters arising

2. AGM outcome and welcome new members

All agreed the AGM was a useful event, encouraged discussion and networking. HS welcomed 2 of 3 new members to the Steering group, apologies from AW. KP to thank Community Shop and The Holman Clavel for supplying fruit juice + edibles and the pop-up bar for AGM. Total outlay for meeting £21 (TEN licence), venue rental £23.23.

KP

3. Finances

Agreed to offer a consideration of £30 to Frances Parslow who provided external audit of BHPN annual accounts.

CB to follow up DCClr Ray Radford's offer of £250 toward the website upgrade, BHPN has received £250 from each of Cllrs Diviani and Moulding.

Agreed to pay Cosmic annual maintenance fee (£150), but to retain the outstanding balance (£456) on the new website for the time being.

CB

3. Forthcoming Meeting Updates

1. MPs: first date July 29th now no longer possible, CB to canvas new dates among all steering group to offer to Neil Parish and Rebecca Pow.

CB

2. Meeting to be fixed with Highways reps from Somerset and Devon re HGV traffic routing

CB

4. BHPN steering group status and decision making

Recent events relating to the £4.6m ERDF application brought into focus questions regarding communication and decision making process, particularly in rapidly moving situations.

Agreed to start by clarifying the operating principles of the network; parishes need to commit to an annual contribution to have full representation. CB to generate a draft policy document to sit alongside the Constitution for guidance.

CB

In a wider context, to reduce financial risk for the BHPN, discussed options to gain some form of status in law such as a Community Interest Company under Charitable Incorporated Organisations legislation; models are freely available and can be adopted quickly - JP & HS to investigate.

HS/JP

5 Update re ERDF Broadband application

GL & BN updated all on events since the ERDF application was rejected on July 1. This is believed to be based on faulty criteria as compared with the call documents, mis-understanding of the role of EDDC as delivery partners and an apparent misuse of language. The bid team (Bob Nelson, Graham Long and Adrian McArdle) have attempted to contact the South West Growth Team of DCLG, talked with local MPs, and escalated the matter to the Minister in charge of DCLG (through whom the