

Cullompton) requires consideration of recreational access to BH and Quantocks AONB. LT reported that the AONBs officers will meet on March 14. Garden Town and Village housing developments are already in the relevant local plans, but newly designated and will share Govt funding of £1.4m between all 13 new designations, so not a great incentive.

- CB to draft letter to MPs reminding them of the summary actions discussed at the November meeting and ask for updates and circulate for comment. **CB**

c Communications

- GL thanked HS on behalf of the group bidding for ERDF funding of broadband connectivity, for her letter of support which created the necessary visibility for the bid and BHPN as a whole and was largely responsible for Gigaclear's interest in the area.
- Latest developments: 4/6 CDS lots now allocated to Gigaclear who are supplying £43m of their own funding; 2 remaining lots to be announced, one held awaiting outcome of legal action against CDS by another potential provider; difficulty making N.Devon allocation due to intensely rural nature of the area combined with dispersed housing; Gigaclear will lay 6,000km of fibre in the 4 lots already won; Gigaclear have partnered with WS Atkins for delivery; work starts in 6 weeks at A303 to Uppottery, Smeatharpe and north; Gigaclear have increased provision from 2000 to 5000 business properties.
- Still some areas that will be without any provision from either CDS or Gigaclear, either through failure to complete Phase 1 and subsequent BT 'de-scoping', now the subject of DCC scrutiny as this will blight some areas (may happen in other regions as well). Phase 1 has failed to reach 11,000 properties.

4. Request for letter of support re Blackdown Hills AONB - The Culm Community Crayfish project

ANB can only submit five letters of support, request that AONB writes on behalf of Clayhidon, Hemyock, Culmstock, Uffculme in order to allow inclusion of other partner letters. CB to seek permission from parishes to collate the already written parish letters within BHPN

CB

Any Other Business

GL: requested that BHPN supports a forthcoming bid for funds to re-roof Smeatharpe Village Hall (asbestos involved)... heritage building (NAAFI during WW2) and important to local community. Bring forward at next meeting

6 Date of next meeting

April 4th 2017 10am in the AONB office

Parish Network Steering Group

MINUTES BHPN STEERING GROUP

Friday February 24 2017 at 10.00

AONB meeting room

Attendance:

Heather Stallard	Chair		
Lisa Turner	AONB Planning Officer	Alison Weekes	Clayhidon PC
Ken Pearson	Clerk to Stockland PC,	Jocelyn Pritchard	Hemyock PC
Catherine Bass	Co-ordinator	Neil Punnett	Hemyock PC
Graham Long	Upottery PC	Mike Bell	Membury PC

1. **Minutes of meeting October 31 2016 were agreed**

Matters arising: CB to apply for membership of DALC (cost £60 pa) from start of 2017/2018 **CB**

MP meeting November 10 2016

Meeting notes had been previously agreed and sent to MPs, no comments received, CB to report on progress with actions agreed at the meeting. **CB**

BHPN General Meeting November 24 2016

An agreed success, reported on meeting with MPs promoted much discussion between parish reps; Agreed that the pop-up bar is a welcome addition to these meetings, small profit made.

2. **Finances**

Closing balance at 22/2/2017 £1982.13

Wellington w/o has withdrawn as a member, two more subs still outstanding, one acknowledged, due to change of bank details, no reply from Churchstanton (new clerk email now available). Total 16 subs received for current year to date, £1747.90

3. **Reports from work groups**a **Planning & Housing:**

- Some Stg Gp members attended the open meeting organised by Eden Westwood at Uffculme School, addressed by Tim Smit about the proposed development at Junction 27. In general the ideas found favour, HS suggested that more 'future-proofing' could be included in proposal, eg more accessible e-vehicle charging point.. Also include FTTP access in all new housing to aid introduction of superfast broadband.
- Work group has developed a draft leaflet 'Housing and Planning in the Blackdown Hills for Parish Councillors' - distribution to BHPN member parishes (copy for each councillor) with a single copy for clerks of non member parishes. Describes role of the AONB, the role of the Local plan in the context of NPPF and the separate AONB policies, offers advice on Material Considerations, PC role in planning and what the Relevance of the BHPN. All to comment by 10/3/2017. CB and NP to liaise on print run. Agreed leaflets maybe a useful way of communicating what BHPN is doing. **ALL by 10/3/17**
- AONB is preparing an agricultural buildings guidance publication.
- New Govt Housing white Paper **Fixing our broken housing market** published for consultation on Feb 7; MB has had discussions with Housing Minister and Membury will comment. Suggested that all read (esp annexes) and consider a BHPN comment in relation to affordable housing in rural areas, closing date May 2 2017. **All**

b **Traffic, Transport and Highways**

- JP has emailed all member clerks asking for local views about TT&H, seeking information on transport issues and needs in each parish re public transport, local roads, accessibility, car parking, HGVs, road signs etc. Work group to collate.
- Encourage the MPs to assist with a meeting with highways officers from Devon and Somerset. **CB**
- Still much local opposition to the preferred Monkton bypass route and so far DCC appears unwilling to reconsider or to spend money on the A303/30 crossing points through AONB. Agreed that BHPN cannot directly support the Blackdown Road Action Group calling for a reassessment of the Monkton bypass since not all parishes are in agreement with their proposal. Little likely to happen anyway since Govt and Highways England are committed to three key upgrades: dualling (locally) A358 from A303 to M5, as well as at Stonehenge and Ilchester.
- Eden Westwood plans much sustainable transport to be associated with the M5 Jn27 site.
- Recent announcement in the locality of Garden Town (Taunton) and Garden Village (Culm, E of