

# ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT REGARDING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE BRIDPORT AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (BANP) FOR BRADPOLE PARISH COUNCIL (BPC)



[BANP](#) was made part of the local development plan by Dorset Council in May 2020 following a referendum in February 2020. This had followed a six-year process during which BPC representatives robustly sought to ensure that the individual identity, character, and sovereignty of all participating parishes was preserved. It was on this basis that BPC confirmed its continued participation in 2016.

The Terms of Reference for the BANP Joint Councils' Committee (JCC) state, at clause 4.2, that:

*"To monitor the overall effectiveness of the Plan over the preceding 12 months, and the likely implications and impact of the Plan for the subsequent year, an annual monitoring report will be prepared by Bridport Town Council, in accordance with agreed criteria, in liaison with the BANP parishes, and the Steering Group"*

The purpose of monitoring is to ensure that BANP remains relevant & effective in respect of planning decisions, and the policies in general, particularly where there may be changes in the local environment, population & economy. In addition any current or future changes to Local or National guidelines which may have a positive or negative influence on the effectiveness of BANP are considered.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

BANP policies cover a wide area (Housing, Design, Climate, Landscape etc.) and are quoted in BPC planning responses, where applicable, to either support or object to planning decisions.

BPC maintains a log of all planning applications considered in any calendar year and this is published on the parish website. The [Log for 2021](#) has been completed and published, an interim 2022 log is available.

BPC continues to receive a small number of applications where a corresponding BANP policy does not exist, these are often covered by policies in the current WDDC Local Plan. It should be noted that during the BANP project Consultants advised that where a Local Plan policy existed there was no need to replicate that policy in BANP. This may require interim monitoring pending an agreed future review of BANP.

There is some concern over the implementation, in planning decision conditions, of BANP Climate policies CC2/3 & D9 along with Local Plan policy ENV13 despite them being mentioned in BPC responses.

That aside BPC is pleased with the way officers have regard to BANP policies when writing their reports.

It is noted that residents' individual comments on planning applications often refer to BANP policies.

For the purposes of this report there have been no enforcement issues in the BPC area during the past year.

## ENVIRONMENT

BANP environment policies protect certain green areas around Bradpole Civil Parish by way of Designated Green Spaces, such as that along the Asker Valley at "Happy Island", and an identified Green Gap along the Brit Valley between Bridport and Pymore/Bradpole.

There have been no instances in the past year where these parish areas have been affected by validated planning applications but BPC remains vigilant as our residents would expect.

## CHANGES IN POPULATION & HOUSING

Govt guidelines direct that housing should not only meet the needs of the local population but also that of potential incomers such as workers and retirees. There has been no significant population change in the civil parish over the past year.

COVID-19 has raised the possibility that working from home becomes more prevalent with the desire that people may have to move into more attractive areas such as West Dorset to undertake their work from home. We have noticed a small increase in planning applications incorporating the creation of home offices.

A National Census was held in 2021, data & analysis is to be [released in phases during 2022/23](#).

## LOCAL ECONOMY

Whilst there have been no significant changes in the local economy during the past year COVID-19 has been a factor over the past 2 years and the full effects on the local economy are yet to be identified.

## CHANGES TO LOCAL AND NATIONAL GUIDELINES

At the time of this report a [Dorset Council Local Plan](#) is evolving and a request has been made to Govt. by Dorset Council to allow the timetable to be extended. At the time of writing the outcome is unclear. This presents an ongoing problem with Dorset's lack of a five-year housing supply which was initially aggravated by the suspension of the then evolving WDDC Local Plan Review process upon Council unification in 2020. A new NPPF was published in July 2021 and further changes are expected as Govt policy is developed.

## BANP PROJECTS

A BANP [Access & Movement Study](#) has been published the findings of which should inform the Local Plan. A BANP [Streetscape and Heritage Study](#) has just been launched where we expect to see attention paid to the heritage aspects of Bradpole Civil Parish as reflected in the [Bradpole Website Heritage](#) page. BANP Objectives are supported by Policies and Projects of which some, such as Objectives 8 & 9, to protect and increase the range of sport and leisure facilities, can be attributed to individual parishes, being supported by residents wishes, whilst still contributing to the overall BANP area objectives. BPC is currently undertaking projects which align with Objectives 8 & 9 and support policy CF1: "Protection of Existing Community Infrastructure" and policy CF2: "New Community Services & Facilities". These parish projects are costed at around **£22000** (net) largely covered by accrued earmarked reserves. Footpath maintenance (Project 13): an agreement with Dorset Council continues costing BPC **£2550** p.a. Community Infrastructure Levy(CIL) is identified in BANP as a future source of project funding. BPC has received no CIL levy in the past year relating to planning applications granted since the 2020 BANP.

## BANP OPERATIONAL COSTS

Whether it be a single parish, or a multi-parished Neighbourhood Plan, such as BANP, there is an **operational cost** of implementing and monitoring Plans. In the case of BANP this cost, which includes accumulating a provision for a future BANP review, is borne by participating parishes proportionate to their size. For BPC the 2022-2023 budgeted contribution is c. **£1000**.

## PUBLICITY

It is important that our residents can both understand, and be informed by, what BANP can achieve. To this end BPC maintains a [BANP website page](#) which provides information and links to relevant documents. In addition information is made available on BPC social media platforms and parish notice boards.

## THE FUTURE OF BANP

Neighbourhood Plans are normally reviewed every 5 years, or earlier if significant reasons to do so exist. As reported above the situation relating to the already delayed Dorset Local Plan is unclear and future National Housing policy is also under re-consideration.

The current [Dorset Community Governance Review](#) is to be determined by Dorset Council in July 2022 and may lead to a re-drawing of the designated Neighbourhood Plan Area boundaries.

The first results of the 2021 National Census are due in early summer 2022 with detailed results due in 2023 and will provide robust detail for a future review of BANP policies.

For the above reasons, amongst others, a BANP review is not appropriate at this time, a situation which may be revisited in the 2023 monitoring review, or before if the above constraints are resolved

**This concludes the BANP monitoring report for Bradpole Parish Council for the 12 months since May 2021. This report shall be available to all BANP Councils, for overall monitoring purposes, and be published on the BPC WEBSITE for the transparent benefit of our residents.**