

Councillors Questions in black

Supplementary Questions in red

WDDC Responses in blue

1. Is the N.P. a forum to lobby for a change to the Local Plan and / or National Policy, & can it be used to constrain the delivery of a strategic site allocated for development in the Local Plan?

**NO** - the basic conditions a NP has to meet before proceeding to referendum are:

- have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance by the Secretary of State,
- Not breach and be compatible with EU obligations
- Have special regard to the desirability of preserving any listed building or setting
- Have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character and appearance of any conservation area

Para 184 of the National Planning Policy Framework ( NPPF) states that neighbourhood plans should not promote less development that set out in local plans or undermine strategic policies.

Correspondingly WDWP local plan policy on neighbourhood development plans (SUS5) states that NP should show how they are contributing towards the strategic objectives of the local plan and be in general conformity with its strategic approach.

2. In the case of a strategic development can the N.P. be best utilised to influence the delivery of that development?

**YES** - the organisation, consultation and evidence gathering of the NP process puts the group in a good position to be able to influence the delivery of a strategic allocation, particularly with regard to community infrastructure requirement.

**Cllr:** This implies that the efforts of an NP team should be directed at influencing the delivery of a strategic plan and strategic sites therein and not changing the strategic policy. Does this still apply?

**YES**

3. Should the N. P. be constructed using statistics provided by local/national govt. and, if so, is it within the remit of the N.P. to challenge those statistics?

**YES AND NO**

The NP needs evidence to support the level of growth it is proposing. Local and national government statistics are part of that evidence. These statistics and the methodology for assessing objectively assessed needs have been tested through the examination process for the WDWP local plan. The NP group may want to add a finer grain of detail to the statistics based on local circumstances.

**Cllr:** This implies that the figures have been carefully prepared by qualified people and as such the NP should accept these whilst being able to more precisely add finer detail at the margins. Do you agree?

**YES**

4. Does the Bridport Area N. P. have powers to amend the development boundaries defined within the adopted 2015 Local Plan and if so can the boundaries solely around Bradpole be changed without the express agreement of Bradpole CP and its residents?

**YES AND NO** - the Bridport Area NP does have the power to amend development boundaries however they cannot be changed without the express agreement of Bradpole PC. Each PC has to agree the elements of the NP plan that affect its own parish area before the plan can proceed to submission.

5. Given a population of c.2300 in c.1400 dwellings what is a reasonable number of new houses that Bradpole should plan to accommodate within its own Civil Parish boundaries in the period to 2030? The strategic growth needs of the area have been provided for in the allocations in the WDWP local plan which goes up to 2031. Therefore the parish does not need to accommodate any more growth unless they feel that there are particular needs of the parish that have not been met elsewhere.  
**Clearly stated response, there is no requirement for additional dwellings in an area NP or standalone NP unless Bradpole considers otherwise.**
6. If Bradpole Parish Council decided that it was in its best interests to withdraw from the Bridport Area N. P. and (now having the capability) set up its own N.P. what would be the implications relating to the following:

a) **Financial.**

Would Bradpole qualify as a separate group for Locality funding (up to £9000 from April 2016)?

**YES** - the parish council could apply for a separate grant from Locality if it had a separate NP area.

What other major financial implications would Bradpole Councillors have to consider?

The cost of producing a separate NP i.e. cost of consultants (if any), consultation events, publicity, document production etc. The LA pays for the examination and referendum.

b) **Boundaries.**

The boundaries of the Bridport Area NP would require changing and Bradpole would have to determine its own N.P. boundaries, probably using the existing CP boundaries. What are the implications of this both for Bradpole and for the wider Bridport area N.P.?

There are no specific provisions to allow a local planning authority to amend a neighbourhood area once agreed. It can only amend the boundary in response to a new application for a neighbourhood area to be designated. Therefore if Bradpole Parish Council wanted to change the area they would have to apply to the local authority for approval of a new area and this would be subject to the same process as before including public consultation.

As you know when the original Bridport NP Area was submitted it excluded some parishes and these councils were encouraged to join in as the functional area of Bridport and its surroundings seemed a more sensible area to plan for as each area is dependent on the other for certain services and facilities. With a combined NP area each parish would have an influence on how the whole plan developed but still retained control over what happened in their own area.

**Additional Questions.**

**Should members of NP Groups who belong to campaign/lobby groups or have other areas of interest declare their interest and debar themselves from discussing matters where a conflict of interest arises. If so should there be a published Register of Interest?**

All information should be open and transparent and available at each meeting.

Register of Interest should be available on the Web Site.

**Is it correct to say that the outcome of any referendum will be determined by a simple majority of those who vote from within the Bridport Area NP Boundaries?**

**YES**, the whole area, voters must be on the Electerol Role.

**Regarding the designation of land use for Green Spaces, development etc. does the landowner have the final say?**

**NO.** With either publicly or privately owned land, the referendum has the final say.

Owners of land do not have to agree.

