18th April 2023

Annual Parish Meeting April 2023

**Draft Community Plan for Bradley - Beautiful Bradley Update**

**Purpose of report**

To bring residents up to date with the volunteering work the Beautiful Bradley Group (BBG) have been doing since April last year to prepare a draft Community Plan for Bradley.

**Background**

This time last year I reported that:

* The BBG had been formed with the purpose of preparing a Community Plan for Bradley. The group comprised of around eighteen residents to begin with, that has now reduced to twelve.
* The first of two small grants had been secured from the Parish Council to help pay for the printing costs of a questionnaire and community plan
* Consultation workshops had been held with residents to identify what the main aspirations are and issues to be addressed
* A draft questionnaire had been prepared which was going to be made available for discussions with residents at a drop-in coffee morning.

The purpose of the BBG is to prepare and oversee implementation of a plan of improvements that residents want and are in support of.

**Report Detail**

The purpose of a Community Plan is to set out a vision of how residents of the parish would like their village and wider parish to evolve and a list of matters that residents would like taking forward to ensure Bradley remains a beautiful place to live. The plan should cover issues and aspirations across a broad range of economic, social, and environmental matters important to residents in the village and wider parish.

The group has continued to meet every month and undertaken the following tasks since last April:

* We completed consultation on the draft questionnaire and agreed on 76 questions to be included in the document;
* We delivered just under 300 hard copies of the questionnaire to every household in the parish and made this available online for completion, inviting completed questionnaires to be returned by 22nd July. We had collection boxes in the pub and church.
* 85 completed questionnaires were returned representing a 41% return rate for households (almost all residents advised that they completed a questionnaire in behalf of their household) or 17% of the population (Census data 2011).
* The data for all the questions asked was then analysed, which was a huge task for such a small group.
* The analysis and interpretation of the questionnaires was presented to the stakeholders of the parish being Bradley Parish Council, Bradley Trust, Lewis Partnership and the Bradley Neighbourhood Watch in October/November 22
* Mark Phillips, Matt Yarwood and I (Malc Newman) then presented the findings from the questionnaire to around 40 residents in the village hall on the 28th November 22, with around 60 residents viewing a copy of the presentation on the Council’s website in the following two days.
* The draft Community Plan was then prepared and shared with the same stakeholders of the Parish this month and last, and amendments made where requested.
* Last week the updated final draft Community Plan was uploaded onto the Parish Council website for residents to view and provide comments on. Residents are asked to provide their comments by the end of this month. The draft document will then be updated for the final time and sent to the printers for 150 colour copies of the plan to be prepared.

Throughout the last twelve months, regular written and verbal reports have been presented to the Parish Council to keep Councillors updated on the progress the BBG were making in the preparation of the Community Plan. Regular updates have also been posted on Bradley Buzz and posters put on the notice board outside of the village hall keeping residents updated too.

The BBG are very conscious that the audience the Community Plan will be speaking to are fellow residents and neighbours that give their spare time to their respective organisations. These groups have their own aims and objectives and ways of operating in our community and the BBG are very respectful of this and so in preparing the Community Plan, the BBG has tried to ensure that these groups are invited to consider the findings and decide for themselves how they wish to act on them.

Whilst most of the matters lie with these stakeholder groups, the Parish Council in particular, some of the matters do not. Matters such as exploring the creation and operation of a ‘pop-up’ shop or market, recycling, the planting of bulbs flowers and trees, creation and use of a community website, etc will be down to residents and their time, energy and commitment to take these and many more matters forward. Even matters that the Parish Council could lead on such as exploring community-led installation of solar panels, air source heat pumps and bulk oil purchasing schemes, will only happen if there is sufficient interest and involvement of residents.

**Volunteers are therefore required** and so if you have an interest in one or more of these matters then please come forward and offer your help.

**Next steps**

The remaining next key steps for the BBG is to:

* Review the comments made by residents and update the Community Plan in early May
* Organise for the Community Plan to be printed and distributed to the stakeholder groups in the village and deposited in the pub for residents to read.

The BBG will continue to meet on a quarterly basis to review progress and see what further assistance the group can and needs to provide to residents and stakeholders alike, but it will be down to the stakeholders and residents alike to put the matters that residents themselves have highlighted into action to bring the Community Plan alive.

The BBG hope you enjoy reading the Community Plan with our analysis of information received from fellow residents and the summary of what the main aspirations are for Bradley.

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