

## Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Employment of Consultant

We have taken the Neighbourhood Plan as far as we now can and it has become necessary to employ a consultant to ensure that when the plan goes to the inspector it has a better chance of passing and going to referendum. We are applying for a grant to cover the cost of employing the consultant and we have no reason to think that our application will not be granted.

We have received a proposal from oneil homer that the Steering Group consider fits our requirements, and I have received references from two of the three supplied by oneil homer. All good as you would expect.

I have also spoken to Melvyn Hall, Mayor of Marlborough who have just engaged oneil homer for their plan. They have just had their first meeting and he was pleased so far.

I've tried to get other proposals. 3 emails I sent to other companies were not replied to. 2 of them I chased by phone and basically they were not interested.

I then phoned Angela Koch of Imagine Places and she agreed to send me a proposal by last week. Nothing has arrived and I have had no response to an email today.

I also spoke to Mark Goodman of Lemon Gazelle who helped Royal Wootton Bassett with their plan. He agreed to look at our plan, then emailed to say they declined the offer to quote.

Therefore I suggest that we go ahead and employ oneil homer, and ask Council to approve. I feel that we have tried hard to get other quotes and as oneil homer are within our grant budget we have carried out due diligence.

I have a copy of the proposal should anyone wish to see it.