

**Stotfold Town Plan Implementation Group (IG)**  
**2 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017**  
**Council Chamber Greenacre Centre**

**Present:** Cllr Sheila Bundock; Cllr Anne Clarey (chair); Wendy Craig (notes); Cllr Colin Phelps; Julie Stockford; Cllr John Talbot, Claire Whitty.

**1. Apologies:** Glenn Rickwood

**2. Minutes of last meeting / Matters Arising from action points**

Larry Stoter has been asked to reinstate the Town Plan on the TC web site.

Kate ET has uploaded the minutes of most of the IG meetings.

The 2015 / 16 update is also with Kate ET for transfer to the web site.

The 2016 / 2017 update will be available shortly.

Drew Gwillam has been contacted to request an update on the status of the footpath adjacent to the old Roecroft school playing field, no response as yet. The issue will be raised with Steve Dixon at the TC meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May **Action AC**

IG will investigate whether the TC might consider free lets (for community events only) of the new building if the hall is not already privately booked during Festival week. **Action AC**

The Stotfold Central Academy has been encouraged to participate in Festival week. The staff at St Mary's Academy have been in direct contact with the Academy and are looking into what aspects of the event the pupils can participate in. **JS** indicated that a Green Watch (environmental group) might be set up for the students to be involved with the Nature reserve.

**3. CBC Better Care Fund Plan – Health Hubs**

Copies of the Central Bedfordshire Better Care Fund Plan were circulated for comment at the last IG meeting. A fuller definition and clarification of what a hub constitutes is required – **Action AC** to consult with Brian Saunders. The document does recognise the challenges of an aging population, but does not address transport difficulties or the need of patients to access services in their own area.

Bedford and Biggleswade are named in the plan, but not Langford, which to IG's knowledge is being used and described as a 'hub' by Larksfield and other service providers. It is known that at least 3 over 70's patients have recently accepted appointments at Langford, which is not easily accessible by public transport. Alternative venues of Bedford, L' Buzzard and Luton were offered, which in the view of IG do not represent a significant improvement in location in terms of distance and accessibility for vulnerable and elderly patients in particular.

**4. Draft Community Plan**

A copy of the Draft Community Plan was presented at the meeting and AC had collated the comments recorded at the public display. The results appear to be very similar to those received after the Town Plan was published 7 years ago. Many of the same comments were made and many of the same things were mentioned as being needed/wanted.

The questions IG asked were: Do the residents of Stotfold demand anything different 10 years on? Is there a need to spend money on 'shaping where we live?' instead of listening and simply pursuing any practical suggestions that are thought achievable. A number of comments such as the request for a railway station were fanciful and duly ignored.

IG would be interested to know the full costs of the exercise, the community consultation, the display, the mapping sheets and printing expenses (incidentally of poor clarity).

The plan and comments are available at [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/localplan)

## **5. Updates**

### **Good Neighbour Group: WJC**

SGNG has purchased a new smart phone the previous one having been returned, as the software was faulty, all costs have been refunded. The new phone appears to be good with improved reception and texting facilities.

The travel concessions have been reviewed at 6 months into the trial. So far a comparatively modest amount of £65 has been spent supporting clients who have regular lengthy hospital appointments that result in either high parking charges or payment for return transport.

In response to the generous offer made by Cllr Bundock at the last IG meeting, SGNG hopes to field two teams at the Festival Quiz.

Three volunteers from SGNG attended a Carers Delivery Partnership meeting at which the main agenda topic was Transport. Adrian Harvey, Transport manager CBC and Neville Jephcote, Transport manager BRCC both addressed the meeting. Discussion points mainly addressed the high number of individuals who had to turn to voluntary transport schemes to access hospital and other medical services, the eligibility of patients and Carers for free transport (should be emotional/mental as well as physical), and the limitations of public transport. SGNG currently provides approx. 850 transports per annum for medical needs. AC tackled Adrian Harvey (with some success) on the issue of a bus shelter at the Green. Subsequent information obtained post meeting indicates a shelter may be provided sooner than previously thought, and preliminary work has been started.

### **PPG (Patient Participation Group): JT**

The first monthly issue of Larksfield news has been circulated to PPG members. It is hoped that a condensed version will be made available in Stotfold News, the Library, on the Larksfield Facebook page and in the TC offices. (and on TC web site?).

The work plan has been reviewed to include the promotion of:

- The recruitment of more full time GPs to the Partnership.
- Nurse recruitment, but it was noted that Larksfield is fairing better in terms of medical staff than many other local practices.
- Patient awareness of drugs wastage.
- Patient awareness of National policy changes regarding not prescribing 'over the counter' medications and Gluten free products.

It was noted that the take up of the cervical smear screening test at Larksfield was 85%, which is higher than the national average.

### **Etonbury Green Wheel: AC**

The draft document has been completed by Cliff Andrews and Karen Brennan and an update will be available by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May. New funding might be available for improvements to a wet area at the riverside. A request has been submitted by the Nature Reserve Management Group for a bird hide for the Nature reserve. The proposed improvements to the cycleway between Fairfield and the Hitchin Road roundabout are not progressing due to lack of enthusiasm from CBC.

Brian Collier has collated the Stotfold TC and Stakeholders' comments.

## **6. Items for information:**

A Highway Officer from CBC came out in March to consult on issues resulting from traffic movement around the roundabout at the bottom of Brook Street.

## **7. Date of next meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 2 pm. Action: AC**