

Stotfold Town Plan Implementation Group (IG)
2 pm, 6th June 2017
Council Chamber Greenacre Centre

Present: Cllr Anne Clarey (chair); Wendy Craig (notes); Cllr Colin Phelps; Julie Stockford;

1. Apologies: Cllr Sheila Bundock; Clare Whitty.

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

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted.

- As of the 6th June the summary of the Town Plan is still not on the TC Web site (LS still to action). Some Minutes and Updates also still to be uploaded.
- Drew Gwillam has not yet responded to the enquiry about the footpath adjacent to old Roecroft playing field. IG may ask Liz Anderson for help in addressing this.
- At the last Buildings Comm. meeting AC asked about the possibility of making rooms available for free-lets for community events during Festival week at the Greenacre Centre if not previously booked by hirers. One request has been received this year. The Terms of Reference will need amending if this is to happen. Discussion will take place at a full Town Council meeting.
- The Better Care Fund Plan had been circulated to all Councillors and was discussed at the Town Enhancement Comm. meeting. It was agreed to invite Julie Ogley, Director of Social Care and Housing, to address the TC.
- The draft Community Plan is to be displayed at the Festival Fete.

3. Education: School places for Stotfold children – present and future

In 2016 Education was added to the Town Plan and is considered an important issue. Last Feb. at an Etonbury Governor's meeting it was noted that pupil numbers would continue to be a big problem despite the recent extensions to the school. There has been an increase in numbers of children and it appears likely a large number will be sent to their second choice school in Henlow. The Local Authority has given approval for more buildings at Henlow but not at Etonbury.

IG felt that the situation needed an over-view and Cllr. Phelps had been asked to lead on this. There was much discussion and IG were pleased that TC had resolved to:

Extract from TC minutes:

A letter is sent to the Admissions Dept at CBC, copied to their Chief Executive and Alistair Burt MP, to express our total disgust that CBC's Admissions Dept. are unable to identify the required number of school places at pre-school age, and realise that these numbers should be followed through to the next school level. Our Stotfold families are yet again experiencing problems in getting local school places, with children being separated from their community by having to attend schools out of the town.

The letter was sent three weeks ago and as yet no response received. There are significant concerns for next year. Pixbrook Academy may be ready by 2019/20.

5. Updates

Good Neighbour Group: WJC

The group is hoping to start Chair based exercises for clients in January 2018. Two volunteers (one with physiotherapy experience) will be trained in the autumn. SGNG is intending to apply to the Eleemosynary Charity of William Field for a grant to cover the training and the limited amount of equipment necessary for the classes.

The group will be participating in the Festival fete at St Mary's school as usual this year and is currently engaged in canvassing local businesses for donations of wine for the Water or Wine stall.

BRCC have withdrawn the facility of DBS checking for new volunteer recruits. SGNG feels this is an abdication of their responsibilities to Good Neighbour groups and is writing to all concerned at BRCC and copying to Julie Ogle at CBC.

PPG (Patient Participation Group):

The second monthly issue of Larksfield news has been produced but not yet circulated to PPG members, however it was seen to be available in the Practice waiting room. A condensed version of the first issue was printed in Stotfold News. Copies are available in the Library, on the Larksfield Facebook page and in the TC offices.

Etonbury Green Wheel: AC

The Stake Holder consultation has now ended and all amendments made. A touring Public Consultation with Displays and questionnaire was scheduled for the end of June/July, but will go ahead as soon as possible

Additional funding has been made available from 106 monies for a bird hide in the Nature reserve, linkage of footpaths along the Green Wheel, additional signage and Way marking.

6. Items for information:

A new person is required to liaise between CPRE and Stotfold Mill Preservation Trust as both Larry Stoter and Pam Manfield is no longer resident in the community.

7. Date of next meeting: 25th July 2017 at 2 pm. Action: AC