

Stotfold Town Plan Implementation Group (IG)
2.00 pm, 25th July 2017
Council Chamber Greenacre Centre

Present: Cllr Sheila Bundock, Cllr Anne Clarey (chair); Wendy Craig (notes); Cllr Colin Phelps; Glenn Rickford

1. Apologies: Julie Stockford; Cllr John Talbot; Clare Whitty.

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

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted.

- AC has provided the Clerk with a list of IG minutes that are missing from the Town Council website. These, together with the Town Plan itself and the Monitoring Sheets (with recent updates) are due to be reinstated, IG recognise the importance of keeping the website up to date.
- Drew Gwillam has still not yet responded to the enquiry about the footpath adjacent to old Roecroft playing field. Liz Anderson has asked twice, but no action forthcoming.
- The Better Care Fund Plan: Julie Ogle, Director of Social Care and Housing, is coming to address the TC on 31st July at 6.00pm. This is not to be an open meeting, AC will provide a list of questions and it is hoped that Cllrs will be able to enlighten CBC Officers about the issues of the Stotfold area. Public transport is a particular issue with relation to the Plan and the location of Health Hubs. IG also questions the relationship of the plan to the Lister Hospital, Stotfold nearest and most frequently used NHS Hospital and other facilities in Hertfordshire.
- The draft Community Plan was displayed at the Festival Fete and is now on display at the TC offices.

3. Education: Updates and further discussion on places available in the lower, middle and upper schools for Stotfold pupils

It was noted in the National press that the population had had its biggest rise in 70 years. A response to the letter from STC was finally received on 10th July from Sue Harrison (Director of Children's Services at CBC). The letter provided no useful information on the CBC strategy for ensuring that adequate school places are available for Stotfold children. The results of the tribunals were that 16 places had been allocated for children at Etonbury. These children will be spread between 6 classes raising the class numbers to an unacceptable level of 33 to 34 per class (other children had been provided with places at Henlow). IG notes that this increase in class numbers will of course travel up the school as pupils advance through the system.

Cllr Phelps had spoken to Steve Dixon who said that the increase in school entry numbers was not supported by BEST and that he (SD) thought that standards would be better served if children went to Henlow. IG felt that this was not supportive of the work of Etonbury Academy. It was noted that more children from Fairfield Park would be going to Henlow and that perhaps the catchment areas might be re-defined in the future.

Cllr Phelps noted that the existing policy stated that classes from catchment schools would move on en-masse but that the reality appears to be that children from St Mary's are moving into 3 different classes. This is thought disadvantageous both academically and socially.

It was also noted that the overload on places began at pre-school nursery level where it is difficult to find sufficient places for the number of children in the locality.

5. Updates

Good Neighbour Group: WJC

The group is still hoping to start Chair based exercises for clients in January 2018. SGNG was intending to apply to the Eleemosynary Charity of William Field for a grant. However, unfortunately the deadline for application was missed so the Chair now intends to apply to the Town Council for a grant to cover the training and the limited amount of equipment necessary for the classes.

The Committee is investigating the possibility of registering SGNG as a Charity. This would convey significant advantages including reduction of personal liability of Committee members, the means to apply for gift aid on larger donations and the possibility of applying for grants restricted to only registered Charities.

The group is in discussion with the Library service and hopes to liaise with them to start a book delivery and befriending service in conjunction with the local Stotfold Library.

The group successfully participated in the Festival fete at St Mary's school and raised £130 from the Water or Wine stall.

A MacMillan coffee morning is being planned for SGNG clients in conjunction with Stotfold Academy pupils.

BRCC have re-instated the facility of DBS checking for new volunteer recruits.

PPG (Patient Participation Group):

A new interim Practice Manager, Moira Cernik, has been 'appointed'. The committee met with Moira, and she was complimentary about what the PPG had achieved in a short time. She said that she will make sure that the group gets the help and support needed in the future, especially with Larksfield News.

The committee raised the problem about booking appointments. She was well aware of the situation, but said that probably half the surgeries in the country have similar problems. There will be new administrative appointments in the next few months.

The Academy of Central Bedfordshire has produced a new Suggestion Box. It is a real work of art. It now takes pride of place under the PPG notice board.

Etonbury Green Wheel: AC

The Public Consultation document and questionnaire is now available and on display at the TC offices. The document is also available on-line, but only 12 responses have been received to date. Karen Brennan (CBC) and Mike Fayer (BRCC) will be manning the display in Stotfold on 3rd August between 10.00 and 14.00pm and both will be available for discussions.

6. Items for information:

The Group expressed disquiet over plans passed by CBC for more housing around the Astwick Road / Taylors Road area.

It is understood that plans for a significant number have been approved in the Astwick Road area. IG is concerned about the effect that this creeping development continues to have on local infrastructure.

Cllr. Bundock informed the group that the 'pot hole-filling machine' will be in Stotfold from July to September and asked that any significant holes be reported to the Council offices.

7. Date of next meeting: 26th September 2017 at 2 pm. Action: AC