

**Stotfold Town Plan Implementation Group (IG)**  
**2.00 pm, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018**  
**Council Chamber Greenacre Centre**

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

**1. Apologies:** Glenn Rickwood

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

- The minutes of the last meeting were accepted.
- Cllr. Bundock reported at the full TC meeting (03.01.18) that the 96 and 96a buses had been cut from 11 per day to 4 per day. It was suggested that Julie Ogleby should be informed as this level of reduction in services seriously affects the ability to get to health appointments in Bedford. The 96 routes were funded by 106 money, which has now been used up. There are minimal changes to the 97 route.
- The residents of Norton Road have presented their petition to CBC, they have also formed a 'Speed Watch' group.
- ACB are interested in any option that would enable them to use the former Roecroft School playing field. (TC meeting 06.12.17)
- Old Brewery footpath (adjacent to former Roecroft School playing field in Church Road/Home Close). KET and Cllrs AC and JH have met with Adam Maciejewski. Additional User Evidence forms have been sourced from older members of the Stotfold community. Copies of maps dating from 1871 which show the footpath have been provided by resident Michael Everitt. KET and AC completed the documentation which was sent to CBC prior to Christmas 2017.

**3. Youth Provision in Stotfold** (Ref Town Plan 11.9)

Nicola King, (Youth Officer from Aragon Housing) spoke to Councillors at the full Committee meeting on 03.01.18. IG are keen that that Stotfold should be included as part of the 'Youth Provision' programme on this occasion. Cllr AC distributed the minutes of the IG meeting 25.03.14 when Ms King previously met and spoke with the IG. She also distributed copies of the Shefford Youth Provision Report Sept 2017, which outlines the aims, objectives and results of the provision for that area. IG had been aware of support offered to Stotfold youngsters by a Groundwork team, who were working alongside Aragon in 2014/5. The meetings organised by Martin were particularly successful.

It was noted that although there was considerable provision for very young children within Stotfold, there was not much support for older or teenage children other than those provided by the 'uniformed' organisations. This situation had become apparent through the Town Plan, but little progress has been made in improving provision for teenagers in the area.

**4. SGNG (Good Neighbour Group): WJC**

- The SGNG has successfully achieved 'small charity' status and is registered with HMRC. The current committee have all become Trustees. There has been no response from BRCC since they have been informed of this.
- The group's liaison with the Library Service to provide an 'Outreach' service to house bound clients is due to commence this month
- The afternoon tea, cake and board games event with the Cubs is scheduled for Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> February.
- The Landlord and Landlady of the Stag Public House provided a free Christmas lunch to 7 SGNG clients who had been on their own over the Christmas period. The lunch was a great success and much appreciated by those who attended. A letter has been sent to Stotfold News to express our thanks.
- Progress is being made with the planned seated exercise classes. Two volunteers are part way through their training program.
- The group is in good shape financially and had recently been the beneficiary of £59+ donated to charity at the Silverbirch Christmas lights switch on event.
- For general information purposes Cllr. Clarey asked to distribute copies of the last quarterly returns to full council. These are routinely supplied to BRCC. (see attached)

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

- No new information available as there have not been any recent meetings.
- WC said that the PPG agreed to print an article about the Carers group in the next Larksfield News.

### **Green Wheel: AC**

- No update available, the next meeting was scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018

### **Education CP**

- Cllr. Phelps reported that Etonbury had dropped a grade in their recent Ofsted inspection to *'requiring improvement'*. He considered this a great shame and felt that it was most unfortunate that the inspection process was held on the same day that the school was hosting its annual open day.
- He reported that all members of the school teaching staff and governors were shocked by the inspector's downgrade.
- It was felt that the recent expansion of the age groups at Etonbury and the resultant massive building programme might have adversely affected the curriculum and hence the inspectors report.
- Cllr. Phelps is still of the opinion that the school has improved since the last Ofsted inspection 3 years ago.
- He did feel that it was good that now BEST would have to be more involved in any new action plan.
- The Pixbrook Academy proposal has been passed by CBC and will go ahead.

### **5. Items for information**

- The traffic issues in Stotfold are causing concern, gridlock at the Hitchin Road and Norton Road roundabouts are a daily problem. The timing sequence of Hitchin Road traffic lights have been reported for adjustment.
- CPRE has appointed a new branch manager Susan Walls. JS to meet and liaise with her.
- The Watch Group operating out of the mill is to be wound up due to withdrawal of support from the Wildlife Trust over issues of DBS checks of leaders. JS to investigate the possibility of setting up independent Wildlife / Nature group events for children using Mill and Nature reserve resources.
- JS to train under the Freedom programme to bring abuse awareness to Stotfold.
- Cllrs Clarey and Talbot mentioned the Cheering Volunteering Awards that are to be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June. In particular they brought to IG attention that applications are being invited for the Inspiring Volunteering grant scheme. Grant awards up to a maximum of £1000 are available for new projects.

### **6. Date of next meeting** Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 2 pm. Action: AC