

Stotfold Town Plan Implementation Group (IG)
2 pm, 10th January 2017
Council Chamber Greenacre Centre

Present: Cllr Sheila Bundock; Cllr Anne Clarey (chair); Wendy Craig (notes); Cllr Colin Phelps; Glenn Rickwood; Cllr John Talbot

1. Apologies: None

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

3.3 Health Hub. AC continues to monitor the CBC web site for information on the proposed new hub. It would appear that some patients are not currently being given sufficient information to make informed choices on treatment venues, and are being offered appointments as far away as Dunstable and Toddington which are difficult to access. Brian Saunders is aware of our concerns.

3.4 Enhancement of commercial property frontages. To date one shop owner has completed the expression of interest form. CBC is offering 40% towards costs.

3. Nomination / Election of Vice Chair

The IG Terms of Reference have been formally altered to permit a Town Councillor to hold the position of Vice Chair. In accordance with the new terms Cllr. Colin Phelps was proposed by Cllr. Sheila Bundock and seconded by Cllr. John Talbot. He accepted the position and will serve for the remainder of the current year to May.

4. Footway access / obstructions

Following meetings with D Osborn and STC – Rec. Grnd, P Lands and Lighting Comm. – 12.10.16, an article appeared in Stotfold News regarding parking of cars and other obstructions to footways. IG has prepared a list of repeat offenders and properties where trees and shrubs are obstructing the footways, this is ongoing. It was noted that an enforcement order on a property at the bottom of Brook St. was finally being acted upon. There was also some discussion regarding the difficulty of manoeuvring mobility vehicles through stationary bollards across alleyways. Bollards are in place mainly for safety reasons and to prevent vehicular access, and are the responsibility of CBC. It was noted that several areas had been cleared, alleyways from Roe Close, behind the Memorial Hall, and Oliver's Lane.

AC to ask Rec. Grnd., P Lands and Lighting Comm. about progress with regard to use of land adjacent to 'old' Roecroft school – IG to keep pressure on CBC.

Also no information received on status of footpath at end of that land through to Home Close. Signed depositions on usage of path were submitted over a year ago, check with Drew Gwillam?

5. Updates

Good Neighbour Group: WJC

5.1 The quarterly report for BRCC was submitted in December. From October to December, 199 jobs were carried out by 29 volunteers and 8 new clients gained.

5.2 The AGM was held in December. The Group's financial situation is good, and it was agreed to keep £200 aside for transport concessions to assist clients who had ongoing hospital treatment. The money is to either support the clients with parking expenses

incurred or by paying for separate return transport if required. So far approximately £30 has been used for this purpose.

5.3 A display of the work of SGNG and information on volunteering was in the library for 6 weeks prior to Christmas but disappointingly, this had not resulted in any new volunteers coming forward.

5.4 The situation with volunteer drivers has improved as two drivers are back in action after long term illnesses and two new volunteers have come 'on line'.

PPG (Patient Participation Group)

The last committee meeting was in December. The minutes record that The Chair and Vice Chair are investigating whether it is possible for the practice to adjust their services so that blood tests for elderly and infirm patients are performed at the surgery. SGNG had requested that this group should have priority at Larksfield as many elderly vulnerable people do not have their own transport and have no means to travel outside of Stotfold to other clinics.

There was concern regarding the development of the Pig farm for residential housing and the approved Nursing Home, and subsequent increased pressure this will place on Larksfield in particular. The PPG is writing to MP Alistair Burt regarding these issues.

Etonbury Green Wheel: AC

It was noted that the 'Norton Rd.' underpass was well maintained apart from the areas of brambles, but that much work is needed at the 'Hitchin Rd.' underpass. The 'Underpass' meeting had taken place, a group from Fairfield, Richard Lawrence and representatives from Teasel, Acorn and STC met with Rick Golder the contractor. Plans were set to control brambles and weeds but to let wild flowers to thrive, improved strategies for promoting natural growth but permitting up to a 1.5m mowing strip were put in place. STC has funds to maintain the underpass.

The wild flower meadow at Stotfold Mill reserve has been prepared and seeded.

200 native daffodils have been planted in Centenary Wood.

15 Heritage trees have been planted in Etonbury Wood, with two further orchards at Common Rd. and Astwick to follow.

A rough sleeper had recently been moved on from the area and some vandalism of trees had been noted near the football pitch.

Cliff Andrews presented the Draft Master plan to the GW Stakeholders Group. The IG would like to have the involvement of Stotfold recognised within the document, and their active support and championing of the project acknowledged; it is 4 years since a display of the proposed Green Wheel was presented at the Stotfold Festival.

A map depicting the current situation on the ground was circulated both to T Cllrs. and IG. All were asked to read and comment on the document. The map shows areas where negotiations with landowners are still ongoing. Despite one area being kept clear and accessible, the landowner is not happy about formalising footpath access over his land. It was suggested that when finalised, that the TC could make the map available for recreational use. It is hoped this would promote interest and use of the Green Wheel.

6. Items for information:

A number of information boards are to be created for the Green Wheel route.

A new bridleway is to be constructed across Fairfield linking to Letchworth. Heritage funding is available.

8. Date of next meeting: 14th March 2017 at 2 pm. Action: AC