

**Stotfold Town Plan Implementation Group (IG)**  
**2 pm, 13th January 2015**

**Present:** Cllr Sheila Bundock; Cllr Anne Clarey (chair); Wendy Craig; Pam Manfield (notes); Cllr Colin Phelps.

1. **Apologies:** Glenn Rickwood

2. **Matters Arising:** dealt with through agenda

**4. Good Neighbour Group**

4.1 WC reported that the first Annual General Meeting was held on 2nd December and a new Treasurer and Secretary were elected.

4.2 The group had provided a Christmas Tree at St Mary's, to publicise the group, and there had been a lot of positive feedback.

4.3 There are now 25 volunteers, with 2 new applicants. As there are now 14 drivers, the transport problems should be less severe.

4.4 The group has performed 240 tasks for residents, 16 since the beginning of 2015, so demand is growing.

4.5 WC would like feedback from clients and volunteers, so is devising a questionnaire.

**Action: WC**

4.6 A local taxi driver had complained to a client that the service was taking away his business. WC had produced a response, explaining that taxi services will not take short journeys within Stotfold, nor wait at the surgery. Some clients cannot afford taxi fares, so would not attend day centres etc if the GN Group could not help.

**5. Green Wheel update**

5.1 PM reported that there was still active participation from the other parishes and that Cliff Andrews was undertaking a master plan which should be completed soon.

5.2 It was noted that Jonathan Woods would be the main CBC contact for this in future.

5.3 A new crossing of the A507 has been confirmed, but it is still uncertain whether this will be a footbridge or underpass.

5.4 There will be two new bridges across the Pix Brook before the end of the financial year, one of which will be a bridleway. These will help link existing pathways.

5.5 Cliff Andrews reported that new funding would be available at the end of January 2015 to be spent within that financial year. Priorities were agreed as the cycle route north from Fairfield to the A507 underpass to be improved and a new cycle access route to Arlesey Station from the A507, avoiding busy traffic on the main roads to the station. CA will complete the necessary funding applications.

5.6 Drew Gwillam has been requested to ensure that the gate preventing vehicular access to the bridleway off Astwick Road, near the bridge, heading to Arlesey, is installed as soon as possible. This is vital due to deterioration of the footpath and fly tipping incidents.

**6. Education of Children in Stotfold**

6.1 AC reported that she had received no response to her communications with Mike Fayers. He will be invited to the next IG meeting. **Action: AC**

6.2 A number of questionnaires had been completed by people with school age children, and a request for responses had also been printed in the December issue of Stotfold News.

6.3 Some responses had been gained from the box at the Town Council offices and after publication on Facebook, though the latter response was not very helpful.

6.4 CBC has a consultation on admissions for 2016/17 and all members of the group are urged to respond to it. **Action: all**

## **7. Items for information and work**

7.1 Item 14.9 of the Town Plan had focused on the need for improvement of pavements. AC will survey the widths needed for disability vehicles and double buggies. Members of the group were asked to survey pavements to collate a list of problem areas. **Action: all.** It was also suggested that aid is requested from various groups in the town. **Action: AC; CP.** It was pointed out that overhanging hedges are often a problem. These should be noted and reported to the Town Council office, who can then issue letters requesting action from the householder. If CBC are involved they will charge the householder for work carried out. **Action: all**

7.2 It was noted the Roecroft Playing Fields had not been restored to their original state and that CBC should be formally requested to do so. **Action: AC** to take to Recreation, Public Lands and Lighting Committee (RPLLC).

7.3 PM suggested that she and WC conduct another survey of the Land South, looking at wildlife areas, health of trees etc. **Action: WC; PM** in early Spring

7.4 PM asked if the Town Council would support Teasel improving the quality of the pond on the Riverside Rec. **Action: Teasel** to raise formally at RPLLC.

7.5 AC reported she had updated the monitoring sheet for the Town Plan which would be placed on the Town Council website. **Action: AC**

7.4 It was noted that defective lights on Silver Birch Avenue and Hitchin Road had finally been sorted out.

7.5 All members were urged to respond to the North Herts District Council consultation, in view of the plans for thousands of new houses north of Baldock and Letchworth. It was noted that letters were more impressive than merely online completion. **Action: all**

7.6 It was noted that the new Community Centre should be completed by the end of 2015.

**8. Date of next meeting:** 3rd March at 2pm in the Simpson Centre.

## **Additional note as update to item 4.6**

Central Beds had received a formal complaint from the taxi driver about SGNG. This was investigated by Margaret James in the licensing Dept. After several discussions and assurances over insurance and DBS she is happy that we operate this transport service at a 'not for profit charge'.