

Stotfold Town Plan Implementation Group (IG)
2 pm, 19th November 2013

Present: Liz Anderson; Cllr Sheila Bundock; Cllr Anne Clarey (chair); Wendy Craig; Pam Manfield (notes).

1. **Apologies:** Glenn Rickwood; Clare Whitty

2. Matters arising:

2.1 The damaged bollard at Taylor's Road junction had been repaired by Highways. It was hoped the cost would be passed on to the developer.

2.2 The rest of the items would be covered under agenda items

3. Good Neighbours Group

3.1 WC reported that a Pre-Launch Meeting was held on the 18th with 16 attendees. Two people had dropped out and 6 had not responded. The official launch will be on the 2nd of December.

3.2 All documentation is in place, except a Vulnerable Adults Policy needed by the insurers. A draft has been circulated to the Group Committee to review.

3.3 WC requested suggestions of places to advertise the service, especially emphasising this is not only for elderly people, but for single parents, people with disabilities etc. She also requested that people aware of elderly neighbours could persuade them to try the service, as the volunteers will be eager to get started.

3.4 WC reported she had attended a networking talk on dementia run by BRCC, which was raising awareness locally.

3.5 WC was congratulated on the progress of this valuable community service.

4. Green Wheel

4.1 AC reported that the Stakeholder Meeting of the 8th November had looked at parish links and easy wins. All attending had been supportive.

4.2 The next meeting (26th November) would be a brief discussion of the Arlesey Masterplan, the links to Arlesey (and Stotfold) Green Infrastructure (GI) plans and to assess if the plan represents what residents would wish to happen.

4.3 The Stotfold Green Wheel group will meet after the above group and discuss Stotfold's progress, particularly towards easy wins.

4.4 It was noted that CBC had provided a display of the Arlesey Masterplan with comment forms to Stotfold Library, but had not informed the Town Council. There was some concern that the 'consultation' could, therefore be limited.

5. Loss of old Roecroft Playing Fields

5.1 It was noted that updates on this will be discussed at the Town Enhancement Meeting on 27th November.

5.2 Following PM's letter to Stotfold News, there had been letters of support sent to the local press; Alistair Burt and Eric Pickles had been contacted by several people and are being kept aware.

5.3 AC reported a recent study headed "Green spaces save the NHS millions" and that the draft Leisure Strategy, currently out for consultation, highlights the lack of green spaces in Stotfold. It was noted that the Town Council has flagged up this anomaly.

5.4 It was noted that there appeared to have been no comment on this loss of playing area from the Committee of the Junior Football Club. **Action: PM** to contact.

6. Education - a new section in the Town Plan

6.1 AC had reported to the Town Council meeting of 6th November a discussion with Gemma Maclean of BRCC, who had confirmed that as town plans were 'living documents', new sections could be added, following consultations with residents.

6.2 AC noted that, in 2008 before drafting the questionnaire for the Town Plan, she had visited all Stotfold schools, including Samuel Whitbread, and discussed potential problems with head teachers. At that time, no major problems emerged.

6.3 In view of the current lack of school places and increased pressure with additional new homes, it was agreed to draft a questionnaire on education issues, highlighting parents' concerns. It was noted these may include how Etonbury and Samuel Whitbread will develop and how their catchment areas may be divided. **Action: AC** to draft, send to SB for additions.

6.4 It was noted that there are suggestions that Arlesey is to lose its four plus facility and its pre-school with a new school being built at some point. The timescale and size of school are unclear. To be researched, **Action: AC**

6.5 It was noted that it is difficult for CBC to estimate numbers of births of children in the area who will need future school places, since Lister Hospital refuses to disclose numbers, citing data protection.

7. New developments webpages

7.1 PM presented a document (attached) which would enable the Town Councils to publicly register problems cited for new developments which were subsequently approved by CBC. This could be monitored until one year after completion of a new development. If no problems had emerged, letters of congratulation could be sent to the developer and CBC officers. Advantages were: transparency for residents and Town Council; CBC officers in all departments would have one source to assess new developments and learn what works in practice and what does not. **Action: AC** to present to the Town Enhancement Meeting on Nov 27th.

8. Items for information

8.1 The Pix Brook structures are to enable access for drainage vehicles.

8.2 It was noted that the Pix Brook bridge is still not open to public access, despite all the paths etc being completed.

9. Date of next meeting: 14th January 2014 at 2pm in the Simpson Centre