

**Stotfold Town Plan Implementation Group (IG)**  
**2 pm, Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014**

**Present:** Cllr Sheila Bundock; Cllr Anne Clarey (chair/notes); Wendy Craig; Cllr Colin Phelps; Clare Whitty

**Also present:** Ruth Featherstone (Chair of Central Bedfordshire Older People's Reference Group – OPRG)

**1. Apologies:** Pam Manfield; Glenn Rickwood

**2. A Voice for Older People in Central Bedfordshire**

- 2.1 Ruth Featherstone was welcomed to our meeting. Ruth chairs the OPRG – a focus group formed to carry out the review of Older People's Engagement with Government (Report – John Elbourne 2008)
- 2.2 The group gives older residents the opportunity to influence Council decisions and help to shape and improve services across Central Beds.
- 2.3 The group meet monthly at Millbrook Village Hall (central point) and have around 40 members. They have organised the Older People's Festival (03.10.14) at Ampthill and have road shows planned for 2015.
- 2.4 They are concerned that people are able to stay independent in their own homes for longer; promote dementia-friendly communities and aim to make a difference.
- 2.5 The OPRG have been involved with the design and building of Priory View in Dunstable (a new housing scheme in Central Beds.).
- 2.6 Ruth expressed concern about the provision of accommodation for the elderly in Stotfold and will raise the issue with her group (N.Beds are facing the largest rise in the people of retirement age in Bedfordshire).  
Ruth was thanked for giving her time and for the positive impact her group is having on the lives of older people in Central Bedfordshire.

**3. Matters arising from Action Points (meeting 08.07.14):**

- 3.1 Martin Goddard (Groundwork) has been invited to address the full Town Council in October.

**4. Update Good Neighbour Group – WC**

- 4.1 Group has reached the 'critical mass' – 120 jobs completed since December, with numbers increasing.
- 4.2 3-4 enquiries per week with 40-50 clients on the books.
- 4.3 Talks to groups in Stotfold continue (Short Mat Bowls Club the latest).
- 4.4 534 hits on the website since December. 3 new drivers have volunteered in recent weeks.
- 4.5 Waitrose Community Matters funding – anticipate a communication shortly from the partners.

**5. Green Wheel – Etonbury Wood Project - AC**

- 5.1 The Stakeholder Group met on 01.08.14
- 5.2 Cliff Andrews (BRCC) reported that regular visits would be made to evaluate the wildlife and ecology. Ongoing tasks would include establishing routes and clearing scrub. Access routes would be set up in the Spring/Summer of 2015.
- 5.3 Claire Wardle (Ancient Woodlands Liaison Officer CBC) confirmed that the land is now back in Central Beds. ownership. Two bridges are planned to cross the Pix Brook but the exact location of the A507 crossing is still to be determined. All work planned falls

neatly into the preservation of the countryside (Town Plan) and links the local communities.

## **6. Education for Children in Stotfold**

- 6.1 Public Consultation Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30 pm at Roecroft Lower School. New plans for Etonbury noted.
- 6.2 AC will liase with BRCC redarding process for including Education in the Town Plan.
- 6.3 AC/CW will visit Mums and Toddlers Groups / Pre-Schools in October to give parents an opportunity to complete questionnaires, and voice concerns. **Action: AC & CW**

## **7. Items for information purposes only**

- 7.1 Concern over 'Bus review', which could see 96/97 routes cut back.
- 7.2 Alignment of Ford Bridge a concern. AC reported that Town Council members are aware.
- 7.3 Concern over the condition of the 'old' Roecroft playing field being used by the town centre construction team.

**8. Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014, 2pm Simpson Centre