

Stoffold Town Plan Implementation Group (IG)
2 pm, 2nd June 2015

Present: Cllr Sheila Bundock; Cllr Anne Clarey (chair); Wendy Craig; Pam Manfield (notes); Cllr Colin Phelps; Cllr John Talbot - welcomed as a new member of the group.

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

2. Matters Arising:

2.1 Cllr Clarey was appointed as Chair of the IG at the last Town Enhancement Committee.

2.2 Pam Manfield was nominated as Vice-Chair by CP; seconded by WC and therefore elected.

2.3 The updated Town Plan Monitoring Sheets will be put on the Town Council website.

Action: AC

2.4 The waste land near the Co-op may still belong to the developer. **Action: PM** to identify exact location and inform the Town Clerk.

2.5 A roundabout and/or double yellow lines near The Green and Astwick Road had been investigated previously. There may now be 106 funding available because of new apartments to be built on Astwick Road near Fen End junction and new housing on The Green. **Action: AC** to ask Town Clerk to investigate if funding is available and if safety measures (roundabout; double yellow lines) are planned.

2.6 Gate safety at the Co-op has still not been addressed. This was promised at a meeting with Co-op regional managers and the IG in November 2011. It was noted that the exterior of the Co-op looks very untidy and unattractive. **Action: AC**

2.7 Removal of the bollards in Grange Drive would cause significant safety issues.

Action: AC to ask Town Clerk to make this point to CBC.

2.8 WC; CW and PM will do a second survey of the Land South, looking at the Pix Brook and planting, vegetation etc. Date to be fixed. **Action: PM**

2.9 The remainder of matters arising would be covered through agenda items.

3. Good Neighbour Group: WC

3.1 A survey had been sent out to clients and feedback received from 10%, rating the service highly.

3.2 Client risk assessments are also being sent out.

3.3 Another complaint had been received from a local taxi driver. WC has responded.

3.4 John Seamark had asked the group to participate in Pride in Day but it was unclear as yet what was needed. **Action: WC**

3.5 WC noted that it was still difficult to ensure men who need assistance feel able to request help. Ideas were requested. **Action: all**

3.6 It was felt important that insurance should be harmonised across the 40 groups operating in Central Beds and John Seamark seemed receptive to this idea. It was possible that BRCC could co-ordinate the insurance process. Confirmation of progress is awaited.

4. Green Wheel (GW) update: PM

4.1 Cliff Andrews had produced a draft master plan for discussion at the last meeting and asked for detailed comments and amendments.

4.2 The new Astwick project funding had been agreed and will be incorporated into the Green Wheel project.

4.3 Timescales for the GW projects are as follows:

- Late Spring: Drew Gwillam will set up meetings with landowners to discuss options re land affected by the project. If landowners are not in favour then relevant sections will need rethinking.

- Summer: stakeholder consultations will be held, with the revised masterplan being

completed by the end of the Summer. -

- September/October: A formal public consultation will take place, led by CBC Countryside Access Team.

- Late Autumn: Compilation of responses and completion of the final masterplan for the project.

- First 3 months 2016: Town/Parish Councils and CBC will be asked to endorse and adopt the project.

- 2016/17: it is hoped the endorsed masterplan will be put into action.

4.4 It was noted that the idea of the GW had come via the IG long before the current actions.

4.5 The Old Roecroft Playing Fields have been incorporated into the GW plan, since the adjoining footpaths link it to other major green areas.

5. Accessible Stotfold

5.1 Responses had been received from across the town, including from the Twins Group, about problems with footpaths etc. AC had given all to the Assistant Town Clerk, so they are added to the official list.

5.2 It was noted that narrowed pavements during the town "enhancement" had created problems for double buggies and mobility vehicles.

5.3 There were also problems with cycleways on pavements which were contradictory and dangerous. **Action: SB** to meet with Highways to raise issues.

5.4 Other problem points were the roundabout on Hitchin Road and the disabled bay outside the parade of shops, which was too small. Group members were asked to produce a list of other problem areas to send to SB. **Action: all**

6. Education in Stotfold

6.1 An amended questionnaire would be available at the Town Council stand at the Festival. **Action: AC**

6.2 Despite a BRCC comment that this was a "good pilot" it was agreed that the identification of need; variety of distribution methods and number and quality of responses meant that this was more definitive and compared well with the work done on the original Town Plan.

7. Items for information and work

7.1 The new Town Council committees had now been set up. AC had asked the various chairs to suggest items they might like the IG to work on.

7.2 It was noted that the playground at Greenacres still belongs to the developer, who needs to address a number of problems. Bins are not being emptied regularly; the slide has been wrecked and not replaced. Access across the bridge has metal barriers supposedly to prevent children accessing the brook. These do not prevent access. The kerbs have been built up but there is rough ground on each side which is dangerous. Shrubs have been removed. There are reports of sharp flints in the games area. This needs more topsoil and proper grassing over. **Action: AC** to request that the Town Clerk informs the developer of potential dangers and requests immediate action, especially to remove and replace the slide.

7.3 PM reported that a group is monitoring plants on the underpasses near the town, including photography, on a monthly basis.

7.4 AC and SB will be attending a meeting at St Mary's about the problems of speeding and parking on Rook Tree Lane.

7.5 It was noted that the flashing 20mph sign on Hitchin Road is not working. It is also in the wrong place as it is on a bend, where motorists are looking for oncoming cars on the right.

9. Date of next meeting: 7th July at 2 pm at the Simpson Centre. Action: AC to book room.