

**Stotfold Town Plan Implementation Group (IG)**  
**2 pm, 22nd October 2013**

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

1. **Apologies:** Liz Anderson; Kate Bell; Glenn Rickwood

2. Matters arising: would be covered under agenda items

### **3. Good Neighbours**

3.1 WC reported that the scheme was going well and that the £300 grant from BRCC had been received. The Town Clerk was dealing with the purchase of a telephone.

3.2 All paperwork was ready and all but 3 volunteers had been through the disclosure and barring process. The remainder will be submitting documents soon.

3.3 A website is under construction.

3.4 It is intended to launch the scheme on December 2nd; posters and publicity are underway. The posters will be widely displayed throughout Stotfold. **Action: WC**

3.5 Thanks were expressed to Wendy Craig, Kate Bell, the Town Clerk and Alison and Rob Honeyman for this successful start.

### **4. Green Wheel**

4.1 AC detailed the various meetings (local and area) at which the project had been discussed. It was noted that all minutes were available on the Town Council website. Terms of reference had been agreed and funding had been agreed by the Recreation, Public Lands and Lighting Committee to pay for Cliff Andrew's time in 2014 to help put in a formal application.

4.2 The first Stakeholder Meeting had a good representation of neighbouring parishes and organisations and all had been supportive and helpful.

4.3. More comments on Favourite Green Spaces in the town had been collected at the Mill Working Steam Weekend. PM will summarise and pass info to CW for inclusion in December issue of Stotfold News. **Action: PM/CW**

4.4 Astwick Parish Council need to be contacted again about involvement. **Action: PM.**

### **5. New Bus Service**

5.1 SB reported that these have proved advantageous for some residents since there is a half hour, more speedy service.

5.2 The 96 which goes through the Land South was not being greatly used as there were no bus stops and many residents were not aware that they could hail the bus at any point. It is feared that the service could be withdrawn if there is lack of use. SB reported that CBC and Arriva were to decide on areas for new bus stops but they would not be put in until the roads had been adopted. It was suggested that temporary stops might encourage bus use and limit parking and that the Town Council should be asked to write a formal letter about the lack of bus stops. **Action: AC/SB**

5.3 The new timetables were not effective. The Arriva timetable was particularly unhelpful and there was a serious error in the CBC timetable, where page 19 was a repeat of page 16.

5.4 It was noted that publicity for the services had been very poor and that articles in local newspapers would have been helpful. It was suggested that IG members could write to the local press and CBC suggesting this. **Action: any members who wish to do so.**

## **6. Former Roecroft Playing Fields**

6.1 CBC had made a presentation about the proposal to build 21 (or 25) houses on this site. Every Town Councillor had objected.

6.2 It was noted that CBC Draft Leisure Policy states in a number of places that Stotfold lacks green spaces, especially those suitable for children and young people to play safely. It was also noted that the children and young people using the new centre would benefit from a green area in which to let off steam between lessons.

6.3 The junior football team who had used the area to practice now had to play outside the town because of a lack of pitches. The CBC Play Advisor had formally noted this lack of pitches three years ago.

6.4 It was noted that Roecroft School had moved to its new site, partly because of the problems of traffic on the narrow, winding roads nearby. Only recently a bus had become stuck in Church Road. The area was obviously unsuited for additional traffic.

6.5 AC reported that she believed the land had been released for building by the Dept of Education but this needed to be checked. It was noted that emails had been sent to Alistair Burt asking him to discuss the issue with the Dept of Education.

6.6 PM reported that she had been told about the annoyance of many local mothers with young children at the loss of this potential green play area and the strong possibility of there being public protests/petitions in the near future.

6.6 It was suggested that as many individuals as possible should write letters of protest to CBC, copied to CBC councillors for our area. **Action: all**

## **7. Work to carry out**

7.1 This had been covered in the items above.

## **8. Items for information**

8.1 WC reported some stone structures had appeared near the new brook on the Land South development. **Action: WC/PM to walk and photograph.**

8.2 It was noted that developers were advertising the excellence of local schools but did not mention the fact that there were no places available for young people in Stotfold schools and they would have to travel outside the town for education. AC had consulted BRCC, who confirmed that "the Town Plan was a living document which could evolve". It was agreed that further consultation should be carried out about provision of education in the town. The Town Plan website could be updated. It was agreed this needed to be discussed and agreed at the Town Enhancement Committee and then the full Council Meeting. The BRCC would be prepared to advise on this matter. **Action: AC/SB**

8.3 PM reported a complaint to Teasel about nuisance drinkers in the Mill car park which was stopping residents from using the Nature Reserve. She had reported this to the PCSOs and requested patrols to stop this anti-social behaviour and would be raising it at the next Town Council meeting. It would be useful to check if there would be a police presence at the next meeting. **Action: AC**

8.4 WC reported that Dr Lewis had returned to Larkfield Surgery and that Dr Hodgson was leaving. She also reported on the new GP to GP system for immediate electronic transfer of patient records to other GPs or hospitals.

8.5 PM had reported damage to the bollard at the junction of Astwick Road and Taylor's Road to CBC Highways. It was noted that the Town Council and residents had highlighted the narrow winding roads in this area and the dangerous T-junction as objections to the Taylor's Road development. These objections had been dismissed by Highways as irrelevant. The damaged bollard had not been repaired despite a promise to do so within 24 hours. **Action: PM to follow up.**

**9. Date of next meeting:** 19th November at 2 pm