

Stotfold Town Plan Implementation Group (IG)
2 pm, 25th March 2014

Present: Cllr Sheila Bundock; Cllr Anne Clarey (chair); Pam Manfield (notes): Clare Whitty. Also Nicola King for Item 2.

1. **Apologies:** Wendy Craig; Liz Anderson; Glenn Rickwood; Kate Elliott-Turner

2. Working with young people in Stotfold: Nicola King, Youth Worker, Aragon Housing

2.1 Ms King, a youth worker for 24 years and with Aragon for 8, explained her role in detail. She works with all age ranges, across Central Bedfordshire, but especially those over 12 and who may have problems and does not only deal with Aragon tenants. Her priorities are targeting Anti Social Behaviour referrals, half term activities and a summer programme, as well as constantly covering her patch and engaging young people in positive activities. She mentioned the successful work in Church Road which has resulted in fewer complaints about anti-social behaviour.

2.2 She works alongside Groundworks who have a contract with CBC, which covers Stotfold, as well as Arlesey, Shefford, Biggleswade and Sandy. and who provide employment skills sessions. It was agreed it would be useful to have additional information about Groundworks' activities and how this is planned and monitored. **Action:** KET to invite a representative of Groundworks to the next IG meeting.

2.3 Ms King noted that the Youth Advisor Project which gathers information to feed back to the Town Council is on hold. She has links with Etonbury.

2.4 A successful idea has been the Youth Pub, where a friendly landlord provides a room and young people can discuss enjoying themselves without drinking alcohol. This is highly staffed and introduces them to how to behave in an adult environment, leading to improved social behaviour and use of language. This is backed by the Community Safety Team.

2.5 The Rave Bus visits the top of Brook Street regularly and has proved successful also. Information about its arrival (and other activities) is spread through Facebook and Twitter, as well as personal contact.

2.6 Project Mackenzie, which includes mentors from Aragon Housing staff, seeks to get young people into training and employment.

2.7 Ms King was invited to attend the Stotfold Festival to spread information about her activities and engage young people and their families.

3. Matters arising from the last meeting:

3.1 These were all covered in the agenda items, apart from PM's actions which had been superseded by the finalising of the Mill restoration book and will be done by the next meeting.

4. Good Neighbours Group (GNG)

3.1 In WC's absence due to family illness, AC noted that there had been 33 requests for help since December.

3.1 Alison Honeyman was leading the project, until WC returned.

3.3 There is still a need for more volunteer drivers.

5. Green Wheel (GW)

5.1 There had been no update as the group were waiting to hear Cliff Andrew's proposals. The final decision on funding and projects should be known on April 4th.

6. Stotfold Matters (numbers refer to sections of the Town Plan)

- 6.1 AC reported she had asked chairs of all Town Council committees to suggest items on which they would like support from the IG group.
- 6.2 Town Centre Enhancement. The exhibition had been well-attended and well-received. There had been some problem over details of maps. Work is expected to start in the Summer. (9.1, pp14-15)
- 6.3 Community Hall. 119 questionnaires had been returned and the Town Clerk had summarised responses. Concerns had been raised about the lack of sufficient parking spaces and noise. The plans had been accepted by the Town Council, but they had stressed more information was needed about the interior of the building. (9.2, p15)
- 6.4 Parking. CBC had sent out information prohibiting waiting and loading, but signs needed to be in place before this becomes legally enforceable. It was noted that a sign at the entrances to the town would cover this. (15, 1-4, p28)
- 6.5 Leisure Centre. The Town Council were still negotiating with CBC for the new facilities for football and sports. It was noted that the recent map and report in *News Central* from CBC showed the clear lack of leisure facilities in this area. (11, p19)
- 6.6 Ford Bridge. A plan for the new bridge shows it remains a narrow bridge, with bollards, though with a lower hump. The bridge would be brick-faced. It was queried what had happened about the suggestion for a weight restriction. **Action: AC,SB (7.3, pp9-10)**
- 6.7 Education of children in Stotfold. AC had produced a draft questionnaire and asked for comments by the next IG meeting. It was noted size should be a maximum of 2 sides of A4. **Action: all**
- 6.8 It was noted that several children who have recently moved into Stotfold are not able to access places in schools.

7 Items for information only.

- 7.1 The list of organisations needs updating. AC asked for assistance with this and suggested the work could be split between some members of the group and the TC office staff. **Action: all**
- 7.2 It was suggested that extra publicity of the list was needed. **Action: AC** to ask KET to place an advert in Stotfold News, highlighting the list and asking for updates.
- 7.3 It was noted that Shefford Library was re-opening after refurbishment. It is hoped that refurbishment of Stotfold Library will follow.
- 7.4 It was noted Sandy is updating their Town Plan.
- 7.5 It was noted Fairfield are producing a Parish Plan.

8. Date of next meeting: 2pm on 29th of April at the Simpson Centre.