

Stotfold Town Plan Implementation Group (IG)
2 pm, 29th April 2014

Present: Cllr Sheila Bundock; Cllr Anne Clarey (chair); Wendy Craig; Pam Manfield (notes): Clare Whitty. Also Diana and Martin representing Groundwork

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

2. Groundwork.

2.1 The two representatives explained the background of this environmental charity. It has different teams working on various areas: communities, employment, youth engagement, education and landscaping. For CBC they are concentrating on youth services up to 18 years of age; in this area jointly in Shefford and Stotfold, plus two nights in Arlesey at the youth centre.

2.2 In Stotfold they usually cover Wednesday evenings, alternately with Shefford, to meet young people and encourage activities. They would like to change this to a shorter-term project based in Stotfold and wish to target issues, particularly through talking with the police and Nicola King (Aragon).

2.3 The IG explained that groups of youth tend to meet at the Mill car park, the Riverside Rec and the cemetery car park and these might be areas to engage with young people.

2.4 They also work with local schools via presentations at assemblies and leaflets, especially on drug and alcohol issues. and have a Facebook page. It was suggested that articles in Stotfold News would be useful to publicise their presence in the town.

2.5 They confirmed they have specific targets for contact numbers and outcomes to justify their CBC funding.

2.6 They are happy to make a presentation to the Town Council on request. A visit to Groundwork headquarters and an opportunity to view projects is to be made by the Town Clerk and Cllr Anne Clarey on 15th May 2014.

3. **Matters Arising:** dealt with through agenda

4. Good Neighbour Group

4.1 WC reported there had been 51 requests from December: two needing information; 6 wanting help with paperwork; 1 gardening and 1 seeking befriending. 28 people wanted help with transport. Two new volunteers have been trained and one new one has just joined, giving 6 drivers in total. More are needed.

4.2 The secretary, Kate Bell is leaving the area and Alison Honeyman has taken over. The phone has a weak signal and will be changed.

4.3 It was agreed that the group needed to be present at various local events, including the Stotfold Festival and the Mill's October weekend. There was no space for a separate gazebo at the Mill May Event, but it might be possible to have a table with parasol near the Town Council stall. If this is not possible, there should be information on the Town Council stand (space at the Festival Fete has been booked). **Action: WC/AC**

5. Green Wheel update

5.1 PM reported that over £80,000 had been awarded which would mainly go to the Etonbury Wood project. Access would be the priority, with new properly-surfaced paths, a new bridge over Pix Brook, posts and signage, plus benches. Trees would be thinned, some replanting done and scrub cleared.

5.2 Community involvement is needed. While Acorn and Teasel may undertake some specific small tasks, more people need to be involved in the project. 12 community events

are to be planned to recruit volunteers to help with the project.

5.3 Cliff Andrews will draw up a timetable of key activities, including marking vital paths and establishing missing links between paths/rights of way.

5.4 Stone Road is to be a public right of way

5.5 No money is available from the Steam Museum project for the Kingfisher Way link across the A507. Liz Anderson will investigate possible other sources. **Action: LA**

6. Education of Children in Stotfold

6.1 AC has devised a questionnaire to go to Stotfold Festival, but this needs to be modified in light of recent publicity about the lack of places. **Action: AC**

6.2 The group expressed concern that Planners and the Education section of CBC do not seem to communicate or take account of national statistics.

6.3 A possible solution has been proposed by CBC for one year but a long-term solution is needed.

7. Patient Participation Group

7.1 There was considerable discussion on various recent problems to do with surgery organisation. Particular difficulties were:

- The online booking system has changed and the phone answering system is sometimes difficult to access, particularly at the point when the surgery opens (8.00am).
- Some general confusion over appointments system.
- Concern that patients might no longer be able to be seen by a duty doctor.

8. Items for information purposes

8.1 Groups in Stotfold Organisations List is being updated by Suzanne. Via *Stotfold News*, a request could be made for groups who have changed names/contact details etc to contact the Town Council to update their information. SB agreed to look at the current list and amend. **Action: AC: SB**

9. Date of next meeting: 17th June at 2 pm. (PM sent apologies for the meeting.)