

Stotfold Town Plan Implementation Group (IG)
2 pm, 3rd November 2015

Present: Cllr Sheila Bundock; Cllr Anne Clarey (chair); Wendy Craig; Pam Manfield (notes); Cllr Colin Phelps;

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

2. Matters Arising from action points:

2.1 The Co-op Management are still being pursued to discuss issues. **Action: AC/KET**

2.2 The flashing sign on Hitchin Road has been examined and problems will be discussed with office staff **Action: AC**

2.3 Work on the School Safety Zone, Rook Tree Lane is almost complete. It has been requested that the bus stop near Mill Lane should be remarked with white paint. Investigations are taking place to discover the whereabouts of the safety signs designed by pupils at St Marys Academy.

2.4 The Recreation, Public Lands and Lighting Committee (RPLL) had discussed the survey of the Land South. Items that are the responsibility of the Ivel Drainage Board have been passed to them. The rest will be discussed in detail at the next meeting of the RPLL.

2.5 AC reported that all councillors had received a letter from the residents involved in the Protection of Green Spaces group.

2.6 AC reported that the Town Council are seeking information on the advantages of completing a Neighbourhood Plan. **Action: AC/KET**

3. Updates

Good Neighbour Group: WC

3.1 WC reported that the Trading Standards talk would be on 26th November. This had been widely publicised.

3.2 The shopping trip would be on 30th November. This had been advertised only to individual clients and the idea had been much appreciated.

3.3 Due to successful fundraising, the group was in a good financial state and able to have a small reserve for emergency use.

3.4 The group would be having a Christmas Tree at the Festival.

3.5 The second Annual General Meeting will be in December, date to be confirmed.

Action: WC

Etonbury Green Wheel: PM

3.6 PM reported that there was little to mention, since the next meeting of the group was on 20th November, but there had been several work parties, planting bulbs, trees etc in Etonbury Wood. She will report back in more detail after the November meeting. **Action: PM**

4. Business/job opportunities in Stotfold

4.1 AC reminded members that this was the only area of the Town Plan that the group had not already worked on. It had been hoped that new building in the town would encourage employment locally, but this seemed not to have happened, as no new business premises had been built.

4.2 A survey has been conducted by members of the group. WC had noted a large number of home-based businesses - presumably one-person enterprises.

4.3 CP had conducted a survey of employee numbers at local schools and nurseries. The majority of staff lived in Stotfold.

4.4 AC/WC will discuss the results and prepare a report giving the figures of Stotfold residents employed in local businesses. Action: **AC/WC**

5. Education for children in Stotfold: AC

5.1 AC reported that the questionnaire had been included in the last edition of Stotfold News, highlighted on the cover and mentioned in the editorial.

5.2 Collection boxes were in several local business premises, as well as the Town Council office and schools. The questionnaire is also available on the Town Council website and Facebook.

5.3 It was agreed copies would be at the Annual Arts and Crafts Exhibition. **Action: AC/SB**

6. Items for information: work to be done

6.1 PM reported that Stotfold Mill and Nature Reserve were doing a Forward Planning exercise and asking local organisations for information. Copies of the questionnaire had been sent to members of the group for completion and discussion. The questionnaire will be provided at the next Town Council meeting. **Action: AC/KET**

6.2 SB reported that the Wanderbus timetable was inaccurate. A resident had reported that booking a seat in advance, as stated in the timetable, did not mean that a seat was available on the required service. A bus driver had stated he had to pick up any passengers who hailed him and so booked seats could not be retained. **Action: SB** to ask office staff to investigate. It was noted that Sunday services had also been cut.

7. Date of next meeting: 5th January 2016 at 2 pm. **Action: AC** to book room.