

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

**Present:** Liz Anderson (part); Cllr Sheila Bundock; Cllr Anne Clarey (chair); Wendy Craig; Pam Manfield (notes); Cllr Colin Phelps (part).; Clare Whitty.  
Mike Fayers (visiting speaker; part)

1. **Apologies:** Glenn Rickwood

**2. Matters Arising:**

2.1 The continued use of Roecroft Playing Fields as a highways dump had been reported to CBC and the Town Council had requested restoration to its previous state.

2.2 Two of the four lights in Hitchin Road had not worked since installation (Item 7.4) AC had made enquiries about sorting this out.

2.3 It was noted that some of the new low-level lighting did not provide enough safe lighting for pedestrians (especially those with limited vision) and additional lights might be needed in places. **Action: group** to note and report back.

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

**3. Town Plan Monitoring Sheets**

3.1 All were asked to read and comment by the next meeting. **Action: all**

**4. Good Neighbour (GN) Group: WC**

4.1 WC reported that 300 activities had been carried out for over 60 clients.

4.2 All documentation had been updated and WC provided a sheet detailing these.

4.3 There are 40 other GN groups in Central Beds

4.4 Action is being taken to ensure all groups are cleared and that no licensing is required for transporting clients. **Action: BRCC**

4.5 Guidelines and advice for volunteer drivers are being created. **Action: WC**

4.6 There have been insurance problems about the extent of cover for pets, people over 70 etc. but BRCC will look at co-ordinating cover and working closely with insurers over this. **Action: MF/BRCC**

**5. Green Wheel update: PM**

5.1 All 6 parishes are still involved and working on the project. A detailed report to the Annual Town Meeting would be made by AC and PM

5.2 Work is already underway at Etonbury Wood, providing better access; re-routed footpaths to protect wildlife; information lecterns and benches and enhanced planting to diversify habitats. Work will be publicised and the Wood formally opened in the near future.

5.3 The Green Wheel group has been awarded £140,000 over 2 years to be spent on:

5.3 1. A new cycle route from the A507 underpass to Fairfield Park, inside the hedge and with improvements of the hedgerow and additional planting.

5.3 2. A safer cycle route to Arlesey Station: hopefully through the trees near Old Oak Close to link to the existing cycleway, keeping cyclists off busy main roads.

5.3 3. In Fairfield Orchard, a management plan is being developed and there will be sensitive pruning to safeguard historic trees.

5.3 4. Several ponds along Pix Brook will be enhanced for wildlife and wildflower areas will be planted.

5.3 5. Two kilometres of bridleway between Stotfold and Astwick will be gated and resurfaced. (Bridleways 17 and 18). This is the main north-south path, going north of Etonbury School and across to Astwick and Common Road. Also 1.5 km of hedgerows along the routes will be improved.

5.3 6. The remaining 40% of the Fairfield west boundary will be resurfaced and the landscape enhanced.

5.3 7. In Arlesey Old Moat and Glebe Meadows Nature Reserve, hedges will be improved, as will those along Footpath 1 near the new development.

5.3 8. All underpasses of the A507 will have better mowing regimes, with possible wildflower seeding.

5.4 The masterplan for other major works is underway and an application for further funding for this will go in to CBC later this year.

5.5 New ideas are constantly being considered, including:

5.5.1. A link to Henlow from Arlesey Station, providing a safe path for walkers, cycles, buggies, mobility vehicles.

5.5.2. The Hicca Way near the railway bridge to the Nature Reserve in Arlesey needs wildflower seeding and near the old orchard, trees and wildflowers are needed and a hedgerow should be planted at the new part of Nature Reserve.

5.5.3. At Etonbury School a screen of planting is needed at the bottom of the new football field and there should be headland planting of arable weeds to enhance the area for insects and other wildlife.

## **6. Education of Children in Stotfold: AC**

6.1 AC reported that the group was considering adding an Education section to the Town Plan. This had not been a concern when the Plan was developed but more new houses and families with young children had resulted in lack of school places.

6.2 Questionnaires had been sent out with Stotfold News and on the Town Council Facebook site, resulting in responses from a wide range of age groups. It was suggested that pre-school groups should also be targeted. **Action: CP**

6.3 MF suggested an appendix to the Town Plan with questionnaires to each household. MF will send samples of other areas' education questions to AC. **Action: MF**

6.4 It was noted that parents were not fully aware that pre-school numbers were limited and places might not be available for their children. It was important to ensure residents knew of the problems, which should ensure a better response. Schools and pre-school groups would be especially useful to target. **Action: SB; AC; CP**

6.5 It was emphasised that Central Beds need to be aware that this is a real problem and should not be left to crisis management. Town Council and Central Beds councillors fully aware.

6.6 It was suggested a small working party could look at updating the Town Plan. There was discussion about the relative values of Town and Neighbourhood Plans. The latter is primarily concerned with housing, but forms a legal document which is perhaps taken more into account.

6.7 MF informed the group that he is helping Fairfield with their Parish Plan, which will develop into a Neighbourhood Plan. Some funding was available to CBC from central government to help fund Neighbourhood Plans.

6.8 It was noted that Stotfold had decided against having a Neighbourhood Plan in the past. It was suggested that the better solution was probably an update of the Town Plan sometime in the future. **Action: AC/IG**

6.9 It was suggested that the Education questionnaire could be circulated via Stotfold News, TC Facebook page, emails and also via "survey monkey" - which MF can help with, enabling the questionnaire to be completed online and sent in. Copies should also be available in shops, schools, the surgery etc.

## **7. Accessible Stotfold**

7.1 An article on this by AC should have been in the last edition of Stotfold News, but was omitted. The piece listed places which were not accessible because of width or poor quality of pavements, lack of ramps etc. **Action: AC**

7.2 The Twins Group had been asked to assist in the survey and CP was collating information. **Action: CP**

7.3 The biggest problem was cars parked on pavements. A Facebook page on parking and speeding problems has been started. People are asked to report problems to the Town Council who will then inform CBC. **Action: all/Town Council.**

## **8. Items for information and work**

8.1 The number and quality of bus shelters needs improving.

8.2 Favourable comments had been received from a number of residents about the new handyman.

8.3 SB noted that for the first time the Wanderbus now has a proper timetable which had gone to every house via Stotfold News.

8.4 Information had been received about community grants from CBC which might be useful for the GN Group.

8.5 WC reported that the Patient Participation group were attempting to sort out the appointment system as a number of residents had found problems getting appointments, having to queue on the day and then not possibly get seen by a doctor or nurse. There is also difficulty in getting an appointment by phoning. Information should be circulated via Stotfold News. **Action: AC/WC**

8.6 From February, Stotfold Post Office had taken over holding large parcels for collection.

8.7 PM reported that a group of residents had formulated a petition to save Roecroft Playing Fields which was being circulated. There would be a demonstration in support of the fields remaining a green space on March 28th at 2pm. The petition would be presented to CBC on 9th April. All were invited to help in any way.

**8. Date of next meeting:** 14th April at 2pm in the Simpson Centre