

**Stotfold Town Plan Implementation Group (IG)**  
**12<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 2.00 pm,**

**Present:** Cllr Anne Clarey (chair); Wendy Craig (notes); Cllr Colin Phelps; Clare Whitty;  
Julie Stockford

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Bundock; Elizabeth Anderson; Glenn Rickwood

2. **Minutes of last meeting**

The Minutes were accepted as a true record.

**Matters Arising from action points**

A short paragraph entitled *Education Matters* stating that Education has been added into the Town Plan will appear in the August edition of Stotfold News.

3. **To consider:**

***Nomination of new Vice Chair of TP IG***

CP indicated a willingness to stand, however according to the IG constitution the post should be taken by somebody other than a Councillor. Advice to be sought to see if constitution can be changed to accommodate this. WJC offered to stand if this is not possible. AC to action.

***IG Representation on Larksfield PPG.***

WJC is standing down from the PPG committee after 4 years, therefore IG needs to consider future representation. Currently no other member of IG is on the PPG committee. The committee meetings are every 2<sup>nd</sup> month. There are currently 73 members of the wider PPG. A decision was deferred until next meeting, 19<sup>th</sup> July, when more information regarding the PPG will be available. WJC to liaise.

4. **Updates**

***Good Neighbour Group: WJC***

4.1 SGNG had a successful display (Yes we Can) at the Watering Can festival that raised awareness of the services that the group offers.

4.2 They also had a successful 'Water or Wine' fundraising stall at the Festival fete, raising £90

4.3 SGNG had been informed of the death of one of their clients by her family. The family was very grateful for the support given to their mother and asked that all donations in her memory be passed to SGNG in recognition of the help and support given both to their mother and themselves. SGNG received £368 from the client's family and friends.

4.4 WJC was pleased to report that free parking for SGNG drivers was now available at the L & D as well as at Bedford Hospital.

4.5 The Baldock and Letchworth Fire Service had recently helped a client by installing new (10 year battery) fire alarms. A fire safety assessment was also carried out. This is a free service for the elderly and infirm.

4.6 AC had noted an article in the Arlesey 'On the Button' publication that noted Groundwork carries out garden renovations for a limited number of individuals under certain circumstances. WJC to pass info. on to SGNG

4.7 The SGNG quarterly returns had been sent to BRCC. For the period April to June 2016 the group had assisted on 167 occasions. This is approaching 2 jobs per day.

***Etonbury Green Wheel: AC***

4.8 The group last met on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

4.9 AC gave a brief resume of the origins of the Green Arc / Wheel project :

After the publication of an article in the Biggleswade Chronicle on their 'Green Wheel', Cliff Andrews came to talk to IG and then the TC. It was agreed to form a group to look at footpaths and bridleways to create connected green spaces. After much co-operation, hard work and enthusiasm from those interested, there is now a Stakeholder Group with representatives from Arlesey, Fairfield, Astwick, Radwell, Letchworth and Stotfold. A Master plan has been produced

with maps and ideas still being worked upon, the hub of which is centred on Etonbury Wood. There will shortly be 15 parking spaces available at the Pendleton Sports Centre for walkers accessing the wood.

4.10 Currently the GW is not a complete wheel, there are some areas, marked on the 'Master plan, where negotiations are still taking place with landowners.

4.11 Discussions are underway for a 'Community orchard adjacent to the allotments on Common Road and also another orchard of 'historic' fruit trees is planned on the Etonbury school site.

4.12 Three members of Teasel conducted a roundabout survey. The cover of wild flowers is reported as good with very little extra seeding required. Bee orchids and Common spotted orchids have been found but their locations are not being publicised.

#### **Education for children in Stotfold: AC**

4.13 As noted above, AC has written a short paragraph entitled *Education Matters* stating that Education has been added into the Town Plan. It will appear on the TC pages in the August edition of Stotfold News and will be added to the IG 'Monitoring sheets'.

4.14 AC commented that finally CB has acknowledged that student numbers have risen significantly. A consultation has just started on the new 'Pix Brook' Academy. The public consultations are scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> July, 7-8.00pm and 23<sup>rd</sup> July 10-11.00am. These meetings have been scheduled at most inappropriate times, at the end of the school term when both school and parents are very busy, hence may be poorly attended or missed. The new Academy will be a 'Free School', and will accept children from 9 to 16 years. It is anticipated to open in 3 years time.

4.15 Individuals are asked to register, giving support when very little information has been made available, except that school places will be at a premium in our area. IG will/needs to keep a close watch on developments.

4.16 According to local press, a further Lower school is also planned for Fairfield with building starting soon. The intake to Etonbury is growing rapidly and is anticipated to reach a 10 form entry in 3 years time.

#### **Town Plan Monitoring sheets: AC**

4.17 The sheets are completed and waiting until it is possible for KET to deal with them.

#### **PPG**

4.18 The PPG has a new Chair and Vice Chair and just 3 other committee members at present (14 maximum). The new officers are hopeful of encouraging new recruits though in the light of recent experiences, WJC is sceptical that this will happen.

4.19 As mentioned earlier, there are 73 members of the wider PPG and approximately 600 followers of the Larksfield Facebook page. These followers are to be invited to also join the PPG Facebook page in hopes of interesting more patients in the work of the PPG.

4.20 The final follow-up article to the Patients and Carers survey has been published in Stotfold News.

#### **5. Items for information purposes only: work to be done**

5.1 Health Hub plan for Biggleswade. Cllr Brian Saunders to be asked if Stotfold will be included as part of this plan. AC to action

5.2 High Street Improvement plan, Cllrs. Collier and Clarey attended a session at Chicksands. They reported monies are available at a ratio 60% CBC / 40% shop owners. It is questioned whether improving the frontage of the shops will increase the footfall. A requirement would be that a business survey be completed, this is fortuitously already in existence, due to the forethought of the IG.

5.2 JS informed the group that the Letchworth tourist centre had requested more of the Stotfold Walks leaflets. Action JS/AC

#### **6. Date of next meeting:**

27<sup>th</sup> September at 2 pm in the new Greenacres Centre. **Action: AC** to book room.