

**Stotfold Town Plan Implementation Group (IG)**  
**2 pm, 7th July 2015**

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

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

**2. Matters Arising:**

2.1 It was noted that the Town Council had received a letter from the Ivel Drainage Board stating how valuable the new grids would be in preventing flooding. This was received a few days before the serious floods in Brook Street.

2.2 (2.3/7.1 previous minutes)) The amended Town Plan Monitoring Sheets had been put on the Town Council website and hard copies given to all councillors. At each committee meeting from 8th July, groups will be asked if there are areas which the Implementation Group can work on. **Action: AC**

2.3 (2.4) The wasteland on the Land South belongs to the developers, as does the small piece of land near the Co-op, which currently has some storage facilities. It may be possible for the area to have a few trees once development is complete as the area is too small for housing. **Action: all** to keep in mind.

2.4 (2.5) The Town Council had been asking for a roundabout and/or double yellow lines at the Astwick Road/The Green junction for many years. PM reported that she had contacted Paul Salmon and Paul Mason at CBC Highways re: the increasing danger of the junction because of new building and increased traffic. Andrew Rook had reported seeing two collisions in the recent past. **Action: PM** to write to Stotfold News asking residents to report problems directly to the two officers at CBC.

2.5 (2.6) Nothing had been done by the Co-op regarding store appearance and gate safety, since the meeting with the IG in 2011, despite promises that actions would take place. They have been asked to attend another meeting. **Action: AC/KET** to follow up.

2.6 The removal of the bollards along Grange Drive and the potential dangers of this are being discussed by the Town Council.

2.7 (2.8) A follow up survey of the Land South will be done on the 28th of July, starting at 2 pm in the car park on Hitchin Road. **Action: WC; AC; PM; CW; LPS**

2.8 (7.2) The slide has been damaged in the recreation area of the Land South. The Council Office is discussing the matter with the developer. John Talbot has sent photographs of the damage to the office.

2.9 (7.4) SB and AC met with the head of St Mary's to discuss the traffic issues on Rook Tree Lane. The Town Council and CBC are organising work to be done. It was noted that the residents' petition (with 52 signatories) had been rejected by CBC.

2.10 (7.5) The flashing 20 mph sign on Hitchin Road now works. However, it was noted it is in the wrong place on a bend in the road, where motorists' vision is to the right to look for oncoming traffic. **Action: AC** to follow up.

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

**3. Good Neighbour Group: WC**

3.1 The Group is flourishing and held a successful car boot sale and stall at the Festival which raised £152 and gained a new volunteer.

3.2 The quarterly return has been made to BRCC. Since there is no feedback, it is uncertain what happens to the information.

3.3 132 jobs have been carried out for 41 residents, 16 of whom are new clients.

3.4 Requests are now coming in for help with other matters than transport.

3.5 A meeting was held with BRCC to look at group insurance.

3.6 Risk assessments have also been discussed and information disseminated to Arlesey Good Neighbour Group.

3.7 Information has been received from Sherone Phillips at CBC about the Care Act and

Advice Central run by CAB. Local CAB and CBC representatives are creating a local database.

3.8 It was uncertain if there would be a Pride In Day in Stotfold this year.

3.9 A possible funding source was identified: Grassroots Giving in association with the Skipton Building Society

3.10 There would be a meeting on 22nd July at Chicksands about rogue traders. **Action: WC** to attend.

#### **4. Green Wheel (GW) update: PM**

4.1 GR had asked about the consultation process. While the actual details will be sought from Cliff Andrews, it is understood that, after the stakeholder consultation, the draft will go out to full public consultation, with meetings in local parishes/towns as well as a website survey.

4.2 GR was assured that the protection and enhancement of the River Ivel area was a priority.

4.3 Work continues in Etonbury Wood: Stotfold Juniors had held a successful duck race, with no disturbance to wildlife; ash die back is being monitored; a route to the new pedestrian bridge is being constructed and general removal of debris and tidying up is taking place.

4.4 Following discussions with the Countryside Access Team, it had been agreed that the timescale should be amended, as discussions with landowners were still taking place and in some cases, it is unclear who owns the land. It was not considered feasible to have a consultation when there were gaps in the routes. In addition, Fairfield's Neighbourhood Plan and the Green Infrastructure section of that would have an impact. The GI plan would not be completed until December. The new proposed timescale, approved by the Stakeholder Group, is:

- Draft masterplan to be finalised by January.
- Initial stakeholder consultation to take place in February/March 2016
- Public consultations in June/July.

4.5 It was noted that this has no impact on funding; money is still available, as long as there is evidence of work in progress/planning. There are two phases of funding over a two year period.

4.6 Parts of the bridleway opposite the Fox and Duck had been resurfaced and that it was hoped to extend the improvements, including possibly the Common Road section. It was noted a gate was also needed to stop drivers accessing the bridleway from Arlesey Road.

4.7 Teasel members had done a survey of the Valerian Way proposed Nature Reserve, accompanied by Steve Halton of CBC Countryside Access. Three varieties of orchids are abundant, plus kidney vetch and many other varieties of wild flowers. Marbled white butterflies were present and small blues, rare in this part of the country, have been seen there. Steve will discuss correct cutting of the area with Highways, including discussion on work on the drainage sump; Teasel members will cut scrub and clear path in the Autumn.

#### **Action: PM/Teasel**

4.8 At Stotfold Festival the Teasel stall held a verge preference survey. Of 51 respondents, 50 preferred verges to be covered in wild flowers, rather than being mowed. 4.9 The verges near the 3 underpasses to the A507 are being monitored on a monthly basis, with photographs and a local student will be doing a Summer project. It is important that CBC cuts these sensitively - maximum of 4 cuts pa.

4.10 Cllr Budge Wells is strongly in favour of wild planting which encourages pollinators. The A507 should have only one metre cuts, with possibly slightly more on bends to aid driver visibility. By the end of August there should be a clear idea of which areas are good and which need enhancement. Funding should be available in the Autumn.

#### **5. Education in Stotfold**

5.1 AC is discussing the way forward with the questionnaire with the Town Council. Currently the suggestion is to use free or paid space in *Stotfold News* in October and then follow this with a further questionnaire and detailed work in schools by the end of the year.

**Action: AC** to forward results to Mike Fayers.

## **6 Items for information and work**

6.1 The survey about the accessibility of Stotfold is ongoing and information is being fed in to the Council Offices. A resident using a mobility vehicle is also providing information.

6.2 Liz Anderson had asked for suggestions where trees might be planted along roads.

### **Action: all**

6.3 There will be ongoing tree work carried out by contractors approved by the Town Council, to improve the visibility re: streetlights in the High Street

6.4 The Rec Committee would be discussing "inclusive" play equipment for the Hitchin Road Recreation Area, which are accessible to children of all abilities.

6.5 SB reported that the Town Enhancement Committee would be having a meeting in July. This would focus on improving the appearance of the High Street, as well as looking at the snagging needed to the highways 'improvements' in the town. **Action: SB**

**9. Date of next meeting:** 18th August at 2 pm at the Simpson Centre. **Action: AC** to book room and note PM's apologies for the meeting