

Stotfold Town Plan Implementation Group (IG)
2 pm, 7th May 2013

Present: Liz Anderson; Cllr Sheila Bundock; Cllr Anne Clarey (chair); Wendy Craig; Pam Manfield (notes); Claire Whitty.
Cliff Andrews, BRCC and Kate Elliott Turner, the Town Clerk were welcomed as visitors

1. **Apologies:** Glenn Rickwood

2. **Stotfold Green Wheel (SGW)**

2.1 Cliff Andrews explained the background to his work on the Biggleswade Green Wheel (BGW) which had most of his time funded from Section 106 money. CA had spoken with Jonathan Woods, Countryside Access Team Leader who has agreed that some funding may be available for CA to work on Stotfold's project. It is anticipated that later in 2013/early 2014 some days of CA's time could be funded. It would be helpful to know if additional money, eg from Stotfold Town Council might be available. **Action: AC**

2.2 CA noted that he could help with attending meetings and giving advice by email in the meantime. The end product should be enabling local residents to have access to attractive countryside and to enhance the habitats for wildlife.

2.3 He confirmed that, based on the documents sent in to him, the Stotfold project was feasible.

2.4 Detailed maps of the sections of the SGW were needed. **Action: LA** to contact Chris Wilson, cartographer. It was noted the maps would need to show current assets. Permissive paths need to be shown as indicative only. Currently accessible green spaces need to be noted, plus potential archaeology problems and local landowners. It would be useful to split access and biodiversity elements on the maps. **Action: next meeting**

2.5 CA recommended concentrating on 'easy wins' which could be standalone projects linked to the whole - enhanced footpaths, new cycleways etc. These would be useful to show the community and potential funders what had been achieved. It was noted that some items on the Green Infrastructure list could be included in this list. It might be useful to concentrate on a 'walking wheel' first and then move to a cycle route.

2.6 If land is in CBC ownership and organised via Countryside Access Team then this is available easily for the project. If land comes under County Farms, with tenant farmers, the situation is more complicated. It was noted that an up-to-date map showing CBC land ownership was needed. **Action: LA**

2.7 It was agreed that it would be useful to have involvement of RSPB; Wildlife Trusts and CPRE etc. **Action: PM**

2.8 It was important to have a written vision document. Caroline Romans has hard copies of the BGW document. **Action: PM**

2.9 CBC departments involved include Countryside Access Team who already support the project; Property and Assets including County Farms and Estates via Peter Burt. **Action: PM** to contact.

2.10 Based on the BGW work the timescale is approximately 4 years to completion of main aspects.

2.11 Community Infrastructure Levy funds will be available at the end of the year for projects of strategic significance: £65k pot with a nominal two year spending time. By October priorities need to be identified. There is no requirement for matched funding but this could be useful as support. Deadline is towards the end of December

2.12 The responsibility for the management of Etonbury Wood may change in the future, with the wood being able to become a major asset on the green wheel. Elsie Hare, Arlesey Town Clerk needs to be made aware of the project. **Action: PM** to draft email for KET to send.

2.13 Now basic research has been completed, the SGW needs to be formally approved by the Recreation, Public Lands and Lighting Committee via an in-depth report on the proposal. **Action: AC/PM**

2.14 It is important to show public consultation. (Some has already been done for the Green Infrastructure Plan, which is the basis of SGW.) Publicity will be organised via Stotfold News and ideas will be asked for at the STC stall at the Festival Fete.

Action:SB/AC.

2.15 The new Pix Brook Linear Park forms part of the SGW proposal. It is vital that the developers are involved in discussions about the landscaping etc to avoid destroying valuable current habitat. It would be useful to meet with the developers' consortium (Taylor Wimpey; Charles Church and Persimmon Homes) urgently to discuss this issue.

Action: KET.

2.16 Urgent clarification is needed of the final plan for the Linear Park. **Action: AC/PM** to ask at RPLL Committee who is responsible for inputting the plan and if a final version has been produced.

2.17 Responsibility for the waterway also needs to be clarified. **Action: to be confirmed.**

2.18 The ownership of land south of the A507 needs to be clarified. Is this CBC or North Herts or Letchworth Heritage land. **Action: WC**

3. Matters Arising:

3.1 WC reported that 20 forms offering help with the Good Neighbour Scheme had been handed in. Three people had asked for help. WC would contact all potential volunteers to arrange a meeting with members of the IG at the Simpson Centre. **Action: WC**

3.2 WC would contact Rosie Kind to arrange a meeting on Thursday 24th May between 10 am and 2 pm. She would also check if RK would like to meet with potential volunteers. **Action: WC**

3.3 Medical appointment transport info should now be on display in Larksfield Surgery. **Action: WC** to check. It was noted that the information had also been featured in Arlesey's town newsletter. It was agreed that the details should be advertised on the Town Council board at the Mill fair. **Action: AC**

4. Work to be carried out

4.1 WC as above

4.2 WC to check usage of money allocated to the Carers' Group.

4.3 PM as above for Green Wheel

4.4 A meeting would be arranged to annotate maps. PM to check with LA re availability and sort dates.

4.5 PM to look at Biggleswade Green Wheel document and start draft vision.

5. Information

5.1 The walks leaflets were proving popular. Fairfield Community Centre had run out of their first allocation and requested more. **Action: PM**

6. Date of next meeting: 30th May at 2 pm for discussion of maps