

Stotfold Town Plan Implementation Group (IG)
2.00 pm, 5th March 2019
Council Chamber Greenacre Centre

Present:

Cllr. Sheila Bundock, Cllr. Anne Clarey (chair), Wendy Craig (notes), Cllr. Colin Phelps.

1. Apologies: Glenn Rickwood, Clare Whitty

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (08.01.19)

Minutes accepted.

3. Matters Arising

- The Smart Stand Plus has been installed in the TC foyer, it looks good and fits in well with décor. Leaflets for local organisations and venues are clearly being accessed by residents.
- Residents' Handbook is still on hold, AC will continue consultations with Caroline in May after TC elections
- Public Art Installation, the Sundial artist Tim Ward is in contact with the TC and dates are being discussed for a planning session in April, schools and public consultation in May and practical art sessions to produce the mosaic panels provisionally scheduled for Festival week, (week beginning 17th June)
- Other Matters Arising to be covered under agenda items

4. Progress: Old Brewery footpath and adjacent former Roecroft School playing field.

AC presented some Danish research into the correlation between lack of green spaces in a child's life impacting on their ongoing mental health. This recent study is in tune with CBC Leisure document where Stotfold's lack of 'green space' was recognised.

IG sees an urgent need to pursue this subject again as we are coming up to the fourth anniversary of the residents' demonstration (28th March 2015) and the petition presented to CBC (9th April 2015). The state of the field after four years is of concern.

Whilst pursuing this AC will also investigate the progress of the Old Brewery footpath being recognised as a public right of way. Contact with CBC and the initial research was nine years ago. Cllr AC will raise these issues at STC meeting on Wednesday 6th March.

5. Updates

Good Neighbour Group WJC

- Two new volunteers active and 2/3 more in pipeline. Seem to be having a bit of an upsurge in volunteer enquiries which is very pleasing.
- SGNG had a good day at the Co-op with display boards advertising for new volunteers and requesting shoppers sign up for 'local cause'. A jump in donations was noted after the event.
- SGNG leaflets to be distributed on seats in upcoming STC meeting on 7th March.
- Toby Moore completed his D of E Bronze assignment volunteering with the CBE classes on Friday afternoons. He was a very amenable and helpful addition to the classes. AC and JT had supervised his progress.
- Cllr Brian Saunders visited the CBE class last Friday.
- Two volunteers represented SGNG at the St Mary's Civic service.
- Still waiting for CBE article in S News.
- Very pleased to have free advert asking for volunteers in St Mary's church newsletter

PPG (Patient Participation Group) JT

No new information available

CP suggested contacting PPG with regard to asking Practice if more choice could be offered on the phone line, a particular issue was difficulty in cancelling an appointment when unable to get through on phone early morning. Might improve DNA numbers if this was an option, and of course make more appointments available.

Green Wheel AC

- Meeting scheduled for 8th March has been postponed until the 15th March.
- Not specifically related to the Green Wheel, but the issue of footpath maintenance was raised. Many have been without regular maintenance and present safety issues, this is a CBC responsibility. The poor condition of the footpaths through St Mary's church yard and Olivers Lane were specifically mentioned.

Education CP

- A new building for temporary use by the Pixbrook Academy has been started next to the Pendleton Centre.
- No planning for the main site as yet.
- The new Pixbrook Head has started a series of informative articles in Stotfold News.
- Teaching Staff for the new school will need to be appointed by May.
- Etonbury's first GCSE cohort is all looking very positive.
- Upper school admissions were agreed Friday 1st March, the Head needs to know final numbers as an unknown number of children will opt to leave for Samuel Whitbread.
- Middle school admissions are high, so some children will have to go to the Pixbrook Academy rather than Etonbury.
- Lower school provision looks sufficient.
- There was some dissatisfaction that '106' money from the development of the land behind Taylors Road had been allocated to lower school provision at Fairfield. This was thought to be unreasonable as the money should have been allocated to a Stotfold school as the developed land is within its catchment area.

6. Items for Information Purposes Only

- STC elections will be held in May.
- IG briefly reviewed the achievements of the Group: A section on Education has been added to the Town Plan, the many other achievements notably include the initiation and now launch of the Green Wheel, the Good Neighbour Group, the PPG, the CAB and other projects.
- AC put to the group that the IG had perhaps achieved its primary aims and any further work could be satisfactorily be progressed by STC existing committees such as Town Enhancement committee. Consideration is already being given to both a Neighbourhood Plan and a Corporate Strategic Plan, these could incorporate most remaining projects. The IG to consider winding down. AC to meet with the Clerk.

7. Date of next meeting Tuesday 14th May 2019 – 2pm Greenacre Centre