

Stotfold Town Plan Implementation Group (IG)
2.00 pm, 11th June 2019
Council Chamber Greenacre Centre

Present:

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

1. Election of Chairman of IG

AC was proposed by SB, seconded by CP and duly elected.

2. Election of Vice chair of IG

CP was proposed by AC, seconded by SB and duly elected.

3. Appointment of Note taker

WJC was proposed by AC, seconded by SB and duly elected.

4. Apologies: none

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (05.04.19)

Minutes accepted.

3. Matters Arising

- The **Smart Stand Plus** has been installed in the TC foyer, it is proving popular and is updated regularly.
- **Public Art Installation**, AC asked CP if it was possible for the IG to design a mosaic panel on the sundial. The consensus was that the panels had already been designed by the two schools and possibly other local groups. The children's sessions are due in the week beginning 01.07.19, with a community session at STC on the last Sunday of Festival week (23.06.19).
- The issue of the former **Roecroft playing field** was raised at TC meeting on 6th March. Ward members are known to be supportive. It was noted in a newspaper extract that 215 school pitches have been lost, much of the land having been sold to developers.
- **Old Brewery footpath** KET has been asked to submit further references. AC to ask Cllr Saunders if he can pursue this. It was noted that this issue was raised nine years ago.
- **Should IG wind down?** AC met with KET to discuss this, she felt it was important for Cllrs. to be updated regularly on the working groups – SGNG, PPG, Green Wheel, Education. The IG has achieved its primary purpose but there are some areas that are outside of our remit. However, it has been clear that IG has had some notable successes when it has been able to act proactively and quickly and has initiated ideas and progressed major projects such as the CAB, Green Wheel and SGNG. The consensus was that IG is a small group and although there is some regret that we have lost most of the public members, there is really no need of additional members at this stage.

It was suggested that the frequency of meetings should be reduced from 7 or 8, to four per year, with an emergency meeting called if necessary. It was suggested that June, September, December, March would fit the plan. The terms of reference of the group will need to be updated.

Only Neighbourhood plans could be a possibility for future IG involvement, but there seems little enthusiasm for that at the present time. However, it was thought it might be pertinent to have an update on NPs for consideration at the next IG meeting.

5. Updates

Good Neighbour Group WJC

AGM last week, 35 volunteers, one more in pipe line.

At the AGM 2 Trustees stood down and one joined.

194 clients, but sadly lost 10 in previous year, reflects demographic we are working with.

We supported our community with 2,300 activities last year.

We have a healthy bank balance of £2268.

Co-op grant has paid half yearly sum of £940, ends in October when we can expect an equivalent sum, plus a third of the monies not specifically allocated, and the carrier bag levy.

We are looking at courses to support our volunteers.

PPG (Patient Participation Group) JT

No new information available

Green Wheel AC

- The official launch was very successful. The weather was good and an impressive number of walkers, 100+, left Stotfold mill, (including a group of uniformed scouts) Arlesey and Fairfield. A ribbon was ceremoniously cut by local youngsters at the Hub at Etonbury. A piece about the launch will appear in Stotfold News.
- Next meeting will be Friday 14th Jun where discussions will centre on how Cliff Andrews intends to continue to run the group. Future work will include securing cycle access, landscaping and planting, particularly of paths for walking and cycling.

Education CP

- The Pixbrook Academy building is growing rapidly, but there are still concerns about the completion date and the time required to get everything ready for opening.
- The initial intake is expected to be 50 children, in 2 classes. This will eventually rise to a 6 class intake.
- Key staff, including SENCO and PE, are to be shared with Etonbury.
- The bigger worry is that the new site is only just coming to the planning stage, which will mean a very tight schedule for completion on the permanent site for September 2020.
- There is an issue with upper school admissions as parents can effectively hold 2 places for a child for some time. Many will wait for GCSE results before making a final choice of school.
- There is currently considerable discussion between CBC and BEST over the choice of type of schools for the future, whether to go for a 2 tier or 3 tier system. Shefford and Stotfold cluster schools are currently favouring a 2 tier system for 2023 to 2024. However, Henlow Academy wish to retain year 9 students from next year which is problematic for Robert Bloomfield and Samuel Whitbread schools who would normally receive those students.
- CP noted that in the next 4 years Stotfold schools will need to accommodate two more year groups along with the associated curriculum requirements. This will be logistically difficult and there are concerns how this model will work in practice, particularly as the local authority are not necessarily proactive in making it work.

6. Residents Handbook

Caroline was not available, therefore the update was postponed until the next meeting.

7. Date of next meeting Tuesday 10th September 2019 – 2pm Greenacre Centre