

Minutes of Stonehouse Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**Present:** Chris Cowcher (CC), John Jeynes (JJ), Carol Kambites (CK), Clare Sheridan (CS-Chair), Vicky Redding (VR), Rachel Russell (RR-Minutes), Terry Webb (TW)

1. **Apologies:** Alistair Shankland (AS)

2. **Declarations of interest:** None

3. **Accuracy of the minutes and Actions:**

The minutes of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Working Group of 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 were approved with one correction: JJ had already completed the action to check compliance of policies with sustainability checklist.

**Outstanding actions and actions not within agenda:**

**ACTION CC:** Has contacted Rob Waite to find out number of hits on NP web pages.

4. **Project Progress**

a) **Budget and finance**

RR reported there had been no changes to the budget information provided at the previous meeting.

**Final Locality Grant:**

Elin Tattersall at GRCC had provided a detailed quote for 17.25 hours post consultation advice and advice on monitoring the plan. The quote includes how the 11.75 hours GRCC support SNPG has outstanding can be used. Although Elin had not included the cost, CC advised that GRCC's consultancy rate was £250 for a 7.25 hour day. Stuart Todd had agreed to provide a fee proposal.

**DECISION:** It was agreed to use GRCC for the post consultation advice as their day rate is cheaper than S Todd's and their skills and experience are a good match for the work required.

**ACTION :RR** to make a further Locality grant application for the items unspent in the 2015/16 grant, and for the GRCC post consultation advice and advice on monitoring the plan as outlined in the quote of 28 April 2016.

SNPG may need to draw on the £1,500 included within the Town Council's Regeneration and Environment Committee budget for consultancy support for the Neighbourhood Plan for post consultation expert planning advice.

RR advised SNPG needs to get quotes for printing plans. Possible printers included MDX and Zeta Printing.

b) **Project timetable**

**Draft NP:** VR had not completed work on draft NP as proving a time consuming task.

**ACTION:** VR and RR to meet 4 May to work on draft.

**SNPG Project Plan: Priority tasks**

- NP text to be collated and edited for approval by SNPG by 7-8<sup>th</sup> May 2016.
- NP text to be circulated on 9 May 2016 for consideration by Town Council on 16 May 2016.
- **ACTION:** RR to invite theme leaders to AGM 16 May.
- **ACTION CS/RR:** Local Green Space (Park Estate Greens, Verney Fields, Boakes Drive, Newt Ponds) evidence base and consultation with owners to be completed by 9 May.
- **ACTION RR:** Housing evidence collation to be completed by 9 May
- **ACTION RR:** Ask AS to do supporting text for Economic policies by 4 May. Projects for CIL to be added.

**Town Character Assessment** work is taking longer than expected. Completion for summary sections now end of May.

**Evidence base report** to be ready for early June.

6. **Draft NDP**

a) Further work required on draft policies (See under 5b above)

b) on other NP text:

**Maps**

New proposed loop to Cotswold Way could be in the blue/green corridor.

**ACTION CC/CK** CC to send CK's request for information about Network Rail land to be reserved for development of Burdett Road station to Network Rail communications contact.

**ACTION: RR** to chase Vince Warwick at SDC re request for maps.

7. **Local Green Space (LGS)**

RR reported has completed Verney Fields checklist and drafted a justification document.

CS had posted flyers re LGS proposal with Stonehouse News to residents of Boakes Drive; there was one response. CS has taken some video and photos of Boakes Drive from canal and asked Stroud Valleys Project for a report on the recent newt count at Court View Newt pond.

JJ reported that he was giving a short talk to APT on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May; Jackie from APT will do questionnaire re Park Estate greens.

**ACTION: RR** to complete checklists for Boakes Drive, Newt Ponds

**ACTION: RR** to contact owners of Boakes Drive, Newt Ponds, Verney Fields

## 8. Public consultation on draft NDP

a) Stonehouse News Insert

**ACTION: RR** to find out deadline for June issue.

b) Public consultation: collecting responses

Responses will be collected on line and on paper. Data protection advice may be needed; GRCC can advise.

RR advised that the Stroud NDP draft had been a mainly web based document and the paper copies were presented in a ring binder rather than being bound, making it easier to insert revisions to the plan.

RR advised that she had contacted the designer regarding the group's current timetable; he is expecting a draft in early May.

**DECISION:** Stonehouse draft NDP hard copies to be in a ring binder.

## 9. Character Assessment

Target for completion is now the end of June. RR had spoken to Jim Dickson of Stonehouse History Group who may be able to comment on the text.

<b>Town Centre and Retail</b>	Summary with photos done with need for some revisions
<b>East of Town Centre</b>	Summary done; extra photos done by GP <b>ACTION RR:</b> Choose photos and send to VR
<b>Canal Zone</b>	VR's daughter has inserted photos
<b>West of Town Centre</b>	<b>ACTION CC:</b> Wto do assessment of Oldends Lane area.
<b>Doverow Hill</b>	<b>ACTION VR:</b> Waiting assessment and photos from VR
<b>Industrial Zone</b>	<b>ACTION CC:</b> To complete assessment for industrial zone.

## 10. Communications and outreach

a) VR had raised the case of Haddenham NP where local authority, without a local plan in place, had not defended a legal challenge to the Plan's housing policies leading to those policies being quashed. A copy of Haddenham Parish Council's paper on the events leading up to this had been circulated.

**ACTION: RR** to draft letter from SNPG to Neil Carmichael MP attaching a copy of the Haddenham Parish Council paper, asking for his views on the case and making the following points:

- It is difficult for parishes to defend legal challenges to NPs as there is no limit on the costs they can become liable for in a Judicial Review case if they are not a Defendant (whereas there is an £35,000 limit for local authorities).
- Volunteers who have worked hard on developing a Neighbourhood Plan may become subject to legal scrutiny.
- Government policy is not "joined up" regarding neighbourhood planning; government has promoted localism and encouraged neighbourhood planning but plans that are developed through the efforts of volunteers and which are agreed after a thorough process of public consultation, examination and referendum can be challenged and undermined by bodies with access to sufficient financial and legal resources.

## 11. Any other business

CIL: SDC are now consulting on revised CIL Charging policy, deadline for comments 8 June 2016.

**ACTION: CK** to draft response/**RR** to send CK link to CIL consultation documents.

Stonehouse News Insert

**ACTION: VR/JJ** to meet with Jo Byrne re content for this.

Apologies from VR for 19<sup>th</sup> May, CC for 9 June.

## 12. Next meeting date

19<sup>th</sup> May 2016

**Agenda to include: Stonehouse News Insert, feedback on draft plan from Town Council, Town Character Assessment, consultation launch 2 July 2016.**