

## **Minutes of Steering Group Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016**

### **Attendees:**

Neil Dickens  
Beth Stedman  
David Lett  
Janette Eustace  
Diana Fawcett  
Jenny Wodey  
Neil Shefford  
Lois Allard

### **Apologies:**

Deborah Vogwell  
Andrew Pryke  
Steve Nicholl

The Chairman (ND) welcomed members to the first meeting. ND made the group aware of a Developers letter he had received offering support for any future Planning Applications to Landowners in Stewkley.

### **Terms of Reference**

The P.C. have agreed the Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and this had been distributed to members.

No-one had any comments

### **Membership of the Group**

ND had a concern that there was no-one of an old village family within the group and was worried that there might become a split at the time of the Referendum because the group is made up only of 'newcomers'.

**Action – ND to look for someone to join the group.**

### **Questionnaires**

So far Tim has had 18% of the questionnaires sent to him.

There has been an indication that two thirds supported some form of additional housing but that it must be of the correct type. There seem to be many people that have no knowledge of the village as such. The Rec. came out top and the Grapevine as a method of communication came out well. Tim has asked if there is a Volunteer with some knowledge of I.T. to help.

### **Working Groups.**

ND had circulated his proposed time scale for the project and the aim was to complete the Working Group Research by August and be in a position to submit the Draft Plan to the P.C. by 30<sup>th</sup> November.

Working Groups were then considered.

1. Planning and Landscape to include Housing and Environment and any new plans plus the Topography of Stewkley (LA suggested that AP should head this with her help) - 6 people
2. Transport and Infrastructure – 3 people - it was suggested that Keith Higgins heads this as he deals with transport for the P.C.
3. Youth (headed by Chris Oliver with DL)
4. Rec. Facilities (including Sports) – DL suggested that the Rec Committee should be approached so not to double up on this.

5. Elderly including any plans that The Orchard has – 3 people
6. Schooling to include nurseries and St. Michaels - it was suggested that the Friends of St. Michaels and the school Governors ought to be approached – 2 people – **since the meeting Pamela Dickens a recent Governor of St. Michaels School has agreed to head this group.**
7. Amenities which will include, shops, doctors, pubs, etc. - 3 people
8. Conservation and Heritage – 2 people
9. Stewkley Businesses – 2 people

DL thought that perhaps there should be some sort of costing for a wish-list, a financial figure needed? There was a discussion regarding the right skills needed on each Working Group and how this would be identified. There was no real conclusion to this.

How the Groups would research and analyse the data was discussed and our A.V.D.C. Rep is to be asked to the next meeting to explain exactly what information will be needed, etc.

**Action – ND**

**Planning Application for the Soulbury Road** site was discussed.

The application goes in on the 1<sup>st</sup> May but JW stated it would probably take at least one year to do the study.

The Group thought that this point was important and a possible splinter group was discussed for those with an interest in this. DF had some very good statement/objections to this development and thought it should be shared for the Neighbourhood Plan.

ND stated that he would speak to Mary Hunt and ask if the application can be adjourned so that we have more time to complete the Neighbourhood Plan. All agreed.

**Action - ND**

DL stated that perhaps the village could become its own developer and therefore any profit would be kept within the village.

The vision for Stewkley was discussed with regard to types of housing, the inclusion of a Landscape Character. JE passed out a NALC booklet 'A guide to neighbourhood planning' for all to read.

### **Village Website**

JE thought that there should be a new village website as the platform used currently is old and not really fit for purpose. One that will have useful links, better information and help us to progress the Plan. A grant would be needed for this and funding for different projects was also discussed. All agreed that JE should go ahead and get funding for this.

**Action – JE**

### **Any Other Business**

There is a meeting to talk about 'Community Land Trust' to be held at Paul Smith's house on the 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30. It was suggested that some of the Steering Group should attend.

It was decided that any communication to the Contacts, Volunteers and Village with regard to the Neighbourhood Plan should be performed by ND.

It was agreed that meetings would be held at 7.30 on the first Thursday of each month at ND house.

The meeting closed at 21:15