

STOKE FLEMING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Minutes of meeting held on 25th February 2015

Present: Bob Bennis (Chair), Paul Bond, Barry Clark, Struan Coupar, Katie Franks, David Harris, Martin Judd, Mark Malley, Mary Newman, Alan Stockbridge, Nick Teage, Nick Wood.

Apologies: **Simon Dowden**, Barry Morris, Sophie Rae, Sarah Simnett,

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th November were approved. There were no matters arising.

Progress Overview

SC advised the meeting that some 1,400 neighbourhood plans are now being developed and 52 referendums have been held. The average voter turnout has been 32%, though in some parishes it has reached 60%. The average “Yes” vote is 88%, and the best have been in excess of 90%. That indicates the nature of the process in which we are involved, and what we should be aiming for.

Despite problems caused by the festive season and other absences we have – though only just – produced a draft consultation document, which has been circulated. We have agreed the format and have made arrangements for design and print.

The government’s interim fund, which was meant to cover the period up to the end of March, has closed. £22.5 million is being made available from April, and it has been said that we should be able to apply during March and receive grants from the start of April. Our aim would be to get the consultation document distributed with the issue of the Magazine that goes out towards the end of April, and have responses back and assessed during May. One complication is the potential clash with the General Election and local elections. There was discussion on this point but no conclusion was reached.

It was suggested that as some households have more than one voter we should distribute two copies of the response form to each house.

The booklet should carry a clear message “Please indicate your choices on the response form”

It should not be necessary to set out For and Against arguments for each Option; only ones where people might not be aware of some of the implications involved.

It was agreed that there should be an additional Core Group meeting to finalise the content of the booklet, and to consider the timing of publication. As SC is not available next week that will be in week commencing 9th March.

Evidence Base WP Report

BB said that until now there had been little for the group to address, but now there are concrete things to go on.

He proposed that the group start with a traffic survey in Church Road, and it was agreed that others might follow in Dartmouth Road, Venn Lane etc.

The group now has the capability to produce maps.

Consultation and Communications WP

The main work of the group has centred on the consultation draft, which has been discussed, and the website.

Planning and Development WP

BC said that there were some things in the draft that need to be revisited. He spoke about affordable housing and second homes, which appear to be less than 20% of the total number of dwellings.

West Dart should be mentioned. It might also be sensible to approach in advance landowners whose land might be earmarked for development.

MN thought the booklet ought to contain a portrait of the parish, and outline recent growth. SC said it was intended that there should be a page doing that, including basic statistics from the 2011 census, which BC had provided.

NW thought that with West Dart in mind it would be politic to make mention of Cotton, Venn and Redlap.

SC queried why the Roads/Transport part of the draft had only one option – School Road – Venn Lane – A379 i.e. all or nothing, and Ravensbourne Lane was not mention, as it had been initially.

Website

The new site is almost ready and could go live within days. There has been a meeting with the Stoke Fleming Magazine team to discuss possible areas of concern.

Additional Research

SC drew attention to the fact that there were various things to be taken into account, not currently being covered. He mentioned a number of examples, Not all are onerous, but they need to be addressed. He suggested that the work should be shared. (A list will be provided to the Core Group).

Chairmanship

It was agreed to continue with the rotation of the function. Roads & Transport will cover the next period.

Next meetings

Core Group:	To be arranged.
Steering Group:	Planned for 29 th April, but may require fresh consideration because of changes to the timetable. The Core Group will consider.